

Equistar finds place in PA | Rodney Jenkins | Steeplechase year in review

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 29, Issue 1
JANUARY 2021



Full Strength

Wicked Strong bolsters region's stallion ranks

Divining Rod: He's got the numbers

The Mid-Atlantic's favorite to become the next hot Tapit son.

Think: Constitution

- Sire of \$100,000 first-crop yearling in 2020

- 70 2-Year-Olds of 2021 preparing to debut

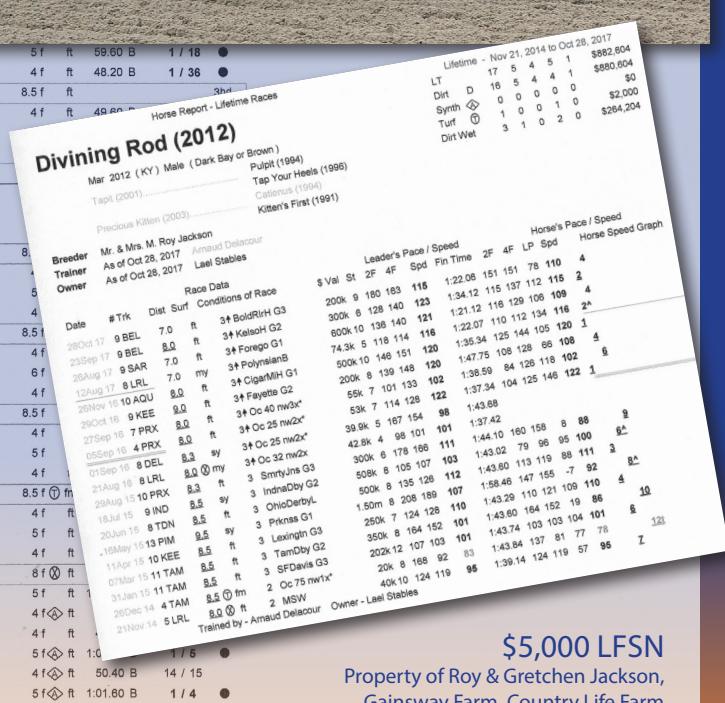
- Look at the numbers he put up as a race horse

Book your mare to him in 2021 before he hits

Activity Pattern for Divining Rod (2012)

Days Since	Date	Trk	Dist	Surf	Time	Type	Rank	FP/Bull
6	28Oct 17	BEL	7 f	ft				52%
7	22Oct 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	59.80 B	1 / 8	●	
8	15Oct 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.20 B	1 / 8	●	
14	07Oct 17	FAI tr	4 f	ft	50.40 B	12 / 15		
7	23Sep 17	BEL	8 f	ft			24	
7	16Sep 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.00 B	1 / 10	●	
14	09Sep 17	FAI tr	4 f	ft	48.80 B	7 / 21		
4	26Aug 17	SAR	7 f	ft			45%	
10	22Aug 17	FAI tr	4 f	ft	50.00 B	7 / 8		
7	12Aug 17	LRL	7 f	my			18%	
8	05Aug 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.20 B	1 / 14	●	
6	28Jul 17	FAI	6 f	ft	1:12.00 B	1 / 1	●	
7	22Jul 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.80 B	1 / 13	●	
7	15Jul 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:01.00 B	7 / 37	○	
10	08Jul 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	59.00 B	1 / 23	●	
9	28Jun 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:02.00 B	4 / 5		
7	19Jun 17	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.80 B	1 / 2	●	
7	12Jun 17	FAI	4 f	ft	49.80 B	3 / 4		
7	05Jun 17	FAI	4 f	ft	50.80 B	4 / 4		
7	29May 17	FAI tr	4 f	ft	51.80 B	6 / 6		
142	22May 17	FAI tr	3 f	ft	38.80 B	4 / 4		
35	31Dec 16	TAM	3 f	ft	37.20 B	7 / 22		
5	28Nov 16	AQU	8 f	ft			2hd	
7	21Nov 16	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.80 B	1 / 11	●	
16	14Nov 16	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:01.20 B	2 / 6		
5	29Oct 16	KEE	9 f	ft			25%	
7	24Oct 16	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:02.20 B	1 / 2	●	
7	17Oct 16	FAI	5 f	ft	1:01.00 B	1 / 1	●	
13	10Oct 16	FAI tr	4 f	ft	51.40 B	5 / 6		
7	27Sep 16	PRX	8 f	ft			1nk	
15	20Sep 16	FAI tr	4 f	ft	48.40 B	1 / 9	●	
3	05Sep 16	PRX	8 f	ft			1½	
10	02Sep 16	FAI tr	4 f	ft	50.80 B	14 / 17		
11	23Aug 16	FAI	5 f	ft	1:00.40 B	1 / 4	●	
7	12Aug 16	FAI	4 f	ft	50.00 B	1 / 8	●	
8	05Aug 16	FAI tr	6 f	ft	1:12.40 B	1 / 5	●	
7	28Jul 16	FAI tr	6 f	ft	1:13.40 B	1 / 2	●	
7	21Jul 16	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:00.80 B	1 / 5	●	
7	14Jul 16	FAI tr	5 f	ft	1:01.00 B	1 / 5	●	
7	07Jul 16	FAI	4 f	ft	51.40 B	3 / 5		
7	20Jun 16	FAI	5 f	ft	51.40 B	6 / 6		
14	23Jun 16	FAI	5 f	ft	39.00 B	5 / 5		

From Beginning to Winning



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2021 MIDLANTIC SALES DATES

Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training

Entries close: [February 8](#)

May 17 - 18

(Under Tack Show: [May 11 - 13](#))

Midlantic Fall Yearlings

Entries close: [July 9](#)

October 4 - 5

Midlantic December Mixed & Horses of Racing Age

Main catalogue entries close: [September 17](#)

H.O.R.A. supplement entries close: [TBA](#)

December 7

*Dates subject to change



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MAGGIE KIMMITT

Daddy Daycare.

Jockey Sheldon Russell made sure he was prepared while shopping at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale with wife Brittany and their daughter Edy.

In this issue

Stallion Time: Regional roster ready for new year

Wicked Strong arrives in Pennsylvania from Kentucky and gets an immediate push from a Grade 2 winner, Northview consolidates in Maryland, Pennsylvania's Diamond B adds Rowayton to ranks. Rodney Eckenrode finds his niche at Equistar, and New Jersey adds Joevia. By Joe Clancy, Tom Law and Cindy Deubler. [Page 20](#)

Racehorses power Fasig-Tipton mixed sale

Consignments from Joe Besecker and Three Diamonds Farm pace December's mixed sale at Timonium, led by racing/broodmare prospect Fly On Angel at \$195,000. A Virginia-bred weanling was the highest regional-bred sold at \$55,000. By Joe Clancy. [Page 38](#)

Blind retires from varied racing career

Coley Blind and his family go back generations in Maryland racing, but the Maryland Jockey Club's stakes coordinator hangs up his condition book and telephone. He'll be missed, but takes up new post helping trainer Kelly Rubley. By Vinnie Perrone. [Page 44](#)

Jenkins sees Thoroughbreds through and through

In the show ring or on the racetrack, the Thoroughbred shines in the eyes of veteran horseman Rodney Jenkins. By Katie Bo Williams. [Page 50](#)



A jump season like no other

Limited by the pandemic, American jump racing wraps up a smaller, less valuable season. But call it a triumph. By Sean Clancy. [Page 60](#)

Cover: Fresh out of Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky, new regional stallion Wicked Strong enjoys some turnout time at Pin Oak Lane Farm in Pennsylvania. Photo by Barrie B. Reightler

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Maryland Million Stallion Nominations Deadline

JANUARY 31, 2021

Questions? Call us at 410-252-2100

MarylandMillion.com

MARYLAND MILLION NOMINATIONS – STALLIONS FOR 2021

Only stallions standing the upcoming breeding season in Maryland are eligible to be nominated to this program. The total nomination fee as reported on this form should equal the advertised stud fee or, if not advertised, the prevailing fee paid by third parties. Under no circumstances shall the nomination fee be less than \$500 or greater than \$20,000, regardless of stud fee. Read carefully all terms and conditions at MarylandMillion.com before nominating any stallion.

Stallion name:

PAYMENT OPTION 1: Pay full stud fee less 10% discount

Due 1/31/21: _____

2021 Stud Fee:

PAYMENT OPTION 2: Full fee in two payments

Due 1/31/21 _____ Due 7/31/21* _____

*Balances not paid by July 31 will be subject to a ten (10) percent late charge.

Stallion Ownership Record

Tax Identification Number (TIN) used on this stallion:

S.S.# _____

or

I.D.# _____

Exact name of the person or business on record with Internal Revenue Service/Social Security Administration for this TIN:

Maryland farm name where stallion will stand:

Nominator Record

Check one: Owner Syndicate manager Authorized

Name of individual signing this form (please print)

Address

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Signature (This form must be signed for awards to be paid)

Payment method: Payment enclosed or

VISA MASTERCARD Exp. date ____/____ Card no. _____

Photocopies of this form may be used for additional stallions. However, the nominator agrees, by signing, to accept the terms and conditions printed on the back of the original version. If no terms and conditions are printed on the back of this form, the nominator is advised to contact the Maryland Million office for a copy of such terms and conditions before signing the front.



MARYLAND-BRED RACE FUND

MARYLAND-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Through May 2021

January 16

\$75,000 GEISHA 4YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 mile

\$75,000 JENNINGS 4YO & Up, 1 mile

March 13

\$75,000 CONNIVER 4YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 7 Furlongs

\$75,000 NOT FOR LOVE 4YO & Up, 6 Furlongs

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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MINSTRELLA.

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TrueNicks available



HANGOVER KID

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HANGOVER KID is a G2 winner (G1-placed, G2-placed, G3-placed) and son of champion and classic winner **LEMON DROP KID**, perennial leader and sire of G1 millionaires **BEACH PATROL**, **RICHARD'S KID**, etc.

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POST TIME

PEACE ON EARTH. Maryland's Summer
Wind struck a pose at sunset in mid-December.

Nicky Ausherman





Lord Shanakill

Grade 1 winner and a G1 sire

Earned \$908,475

By leading sire Speightstown—emerging sire of sires

■ Sire of 13 stakes horses, including champion **Youtalkintome** (in Greece)

■ Sire of G1 winner **MY DREAM BOAT** (\$998,843), **TIME SHANAKILL** (\$335,726, G2-placed), G2 winner **THEMIS**, and graded stakes-placed **Dark Kingdom (Ire)** (\$835,062), **Pythius (Ire)**, **Great Dancer (Ire)**, **Mister Brightside (Ire)**, **Old Fox (Ire)**.

■ A precocious sprint turf specialist racing in England and France, winning from 6 fur. to 1 mile with graded wins at 2, 3 and 4

■ Half-brother to G1SWs **TOGETHER FOREVER (Ire)** and **FOREVER TOGETHER**, from a tremendous black-type family

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PIN OAK LANE FARM

Wicked Strong

Hard Spun's Best Son ~ G1 winner of \$1,994,460

2020 Leading 2nd crop sire in Mid-Atlantic

2020 Third leading active sire in Mid-Atlantic

- Top 10 Freshman sire in 2019
- Sire of **NINE black-type horses** in first 2 crops to race, including MGW **WICKED RUNNER** (at 2 & 3), G2 Remsen S winner **BROOKLYN STRONG** (3 wins in 4 starts at 2, 2020) and \$100,000 Hilltop S winner **EVIL LYN**
- Six-figure 2-year-olds at the sales, topping \$425,000
- Won Aqueduct's G1 Wood Memorial in 1:49.31 (1½ miles), faster than Tapit, Unbridled's Song, Vino Rosso, etc.

- Won Saratoga's G2 Jim Dandy in 1:49.16 (1½ miles)
- Runner-up in G1 Travers S (by a nose) and G1 Jockey Club Gold Cup
- **NINE** triple digit beyers
- **The odds are in your favor:** 221 named horses in his first 2 crops, with another 100+ babies waiting in the wings

\$3,500 LFSN. \$3,000 for 2 mares; \$2,500 for 3 or more mares to any Pin Oak Lane stallion



Leading Mid-Atlantic 2nd crop sires 12/18/20

Sire	Rnrs/wnrs (BTHrs)	Earnings
Wicked Strong	141/59 (7)	\$2,325,237
Golden Lad	53/23 (5)	\$1,554,468
Bourbon Courage	46/22 (3)	\$1,151,146
Imagining	46/13 (2)	\$862,581
Hangover Kid	4/1 (1)	\$125,846

Hard Spun—Moyne Abbey, by Charismatic

Registered Pennsylvania stallion

Pin Oak Lane Farm & Equine Clinic

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SAY IT AGAIN

“A miracle happened. I got all my racing colors back.”

Steeplechase owner Perry Bolton on the travels of his silks during the 2020 season, which ended in November

“Never in a million years as a kid would I have thought with my wanting to be an announcer that it would be horse racing. I’d always wanted to be an announcer and somehow I ended up being an announcer.”

Retiring Parx Racing announcer Keith Jones

“It’s the intellectual side of horses and the farm.”

Owner/breeder Emily Day, on planning stallion choices for mares

“No matter how bad a day you were having, or how bad the night at the races went the night before, when you walked down the shedrow and saw him your day got better.”

Trainer Crystal Pickett, on her stable star Dr. Feelgood (who died in November)

“I’d like to hear the stories they tell each other when they come in from the paddocks. You know the young guys start bragging about all their winners and Great Notion says, ‘Hold on, you couldn’t lace my boots.’”

Northview Stallion Station’s Paul O’Loughlin, on the conversations among stallions (led by regional leader and 21-year-old dean Great Notion)

GO FIGURE

1,500 Apple and pumpkin pies donated to backstretch workers and the Maryland Food Bank by the Maryland Jockey Club on Thanksgiving Day, extending Laurel Park’s free-pie tradition despite Covid-19 protocols prohibiting fans from attending. “During these extraordinary times our strict protocols for everyone’s safety and security do not allow us to have fans at Laurel Park this Thanksgiving, but we didn’t think it should stop a tradition of giving thanks,” said Sal Sinatra, president and general manager of the Maryland Jockey Club.

12 Times Pumpkin Star has been claimed in 45 lifetime starts. The now 7-year-old Congrats gelding, a 10-time winner of \$202,329, sold for \$5,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s December mixed sale.

9 High-pitched whinnies from the barn during a 29-minute telephone call between MAT’s Joe Clancy and Bill Solomon of Pin Oak Lane Farm.

2:00.58 The 800-meter time (and then Irish national record) of Rose-Anne Galligan, sister of 2020 National Steeplechase Association champion jockey Gerard Galligan.

1 Phone call it took MAT to reach Faith Leatherman of Winding Creek Farm, a rare stallion representative to answer the first call.

405,142 Dollars bet to win and place (there was no show wagering and the total pool was \$428,985) on Dr. Feelgood in his Dash for Cash win on West Virginia Breeders Classics night Oct. 10. He paid \$2.20 to win, and the same to place.

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2021

WINTER MEET

Live Racing Begins FRI/JAN 1
12:25 PM Post
FRI - SUN



WINTER CARNIVAL DAY STAKES

SAT/JAN 16
\$550,000 in Purses
12:25 PM Post

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MILESTONES

Won: His 1,000th race, trainer Hugh McMahon, at Laurel Park Nov. 22 when Polished Gal scored by a nose in the sixth race. An English native and former jockey, McMahon sent out his first winner as a trainer in 2005 and has been a regular among Maryland's leaders since expanding his stable in 2011. "I'm excited. It's a significant landmark," McMahon said. "It's humbling as well. I was just speaking with one of our grooms and he congratulated me and I told him it's not really me, it's a team. But, we're more than a team, we're a family. My name is up there but it's not really me. There are a lot of people that are involved in this, but more than anything it's God's gift to us. Everything that we have is a gift." A former assistant to Scott Lake, McMahon led the Maryland standings in 2013 and had won 37 races (through Dec. 11) in 2020 while passing \$1 million in annual purse earnings for the 10th con-

secutive year. McMahon was introduced to the sport by watching the races on television with his father, a coal miner in northern England. McMahon's first big horse was Don'tgetssuspicious, who he inherited from Lake and trained to 10 wins, three in stakes, and \$324,817 in purse earnings from 28 starts from 2010-12. Other top horses include 2018 Dave's Friend winner Colonel Sharp, 2017 Jameela winner Daylight Ahead and 2017 Camptown winner Northern Eclipse.

Voted: The favorite race of 2020 in America's Best Racing's Fan Choice Awards, the Preakness Stakes-G1 at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course. Rescheduled to October because of the coronavirus pandemic, and taking a new spot as the final leg of the Triple Crown, the race featured a stretch-long battle between Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Authentic and Grade 1-winning filly Swiss Skydiver. Trained for

Peter Callahan by Kenny McPeek, the filly denied the colt by a neck. She became the sixth filly to win the Preakness, following Flocarline (1903), Whimsical (1906), Rhine Maiden (1915), Nellie Morse (1924) and Rachel Alexandra (2009). The race delivered a second regional Fan Choice Award, this one to Pimlico announcer Dave Rodman, for the favorite race call of 2020. Rodman identified Swiss Skydiver's decisive move to the front leaving the backside as she went after Authentic and took control of the race. From there, he cued up "a battle in Baltimore" as the two dug for the wire. Though the margin narrowed, Swiss Skydiver never let the favorite get past and Rodman was there for every stride. Created in 2019, the Fan Choice Awards are voted on by racing fans around the country and this year featured 20,000 votes cast in 10 categories. The biggest prize is the Secretariat Vox Populi Award which

WINTER READY?



Like it or not,
Old Man Winter
is HERE

Ensure your mares,
youngsters, training
horses and stallions
are all weathering the
demands of the season.
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IRISH WAR CRY

CURLIN – IRISH SOVEREIGN, by POLISH NUMBERS
2021 FEE: \$6,500 LF

SW & TDN RISING STAR AT TWO

- Undefeated in two starts,
1st \$100,000 Marylander S.

ONE OF THE BEST 3YOS IN HIS CROP

- 1st Holy Bull S.-G2 in 3YO debut
- 1st Wood Memorial-G2
- 2nd Belmont S.-G1

GRADED SW AT FOUR

- Won Pimlico Special-G3,
2nd Hal's Hope S.-G3

\$1.2 MILLION
IN EARNINGS

1ST FOALS
ARE YEARLINGS
IN 2021



NORTHVIEW
STALLION STATION

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PHOTO © BARBARA LIVINGSTON

MILESTONES

this year went to Authentic, whose wins included Monmouth's Haskell Stakes-G1. For more, see americasbestracing.net.

Won: His first race in almost seven years, jockey Jonathan Joyce, at Laurel Park Dec. 12. Joyce guided Grace Isabella to victory in the day's third race, a \$12,500 claimer, for trainer Robin Graham. It was Joyce's first win since since Jan. 30, 2014. Joyce was a regular at regional tracks from 2004-13 with a career-best 1,030 mounts in 2005 and more than 100 wins in 2006 and 2007. He rode just six races in 2014, then took an extended break from race riding. He stayed active as an exercise rider in Maryland and Kentucky, and returned to riding races in October. "Just a lot of gratitude pretty much for Maryland racing and the trainers and the stewards and the jocks, everybody, just for accepting me back and helping me along the way to get to where I am today," Joyce said. "It's been a long journey but this what I do it for, this feeling. It's been tough, knocking on the door. Robin stuck by me for so long, as long as many others, but I've been working this filly in the morning and it all panned out today."

Awarded: Grants totaling \$3.5 million, by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance to 81 organizations holding accreditation, including 18 from the region: After the Races, Days End Farm, Life Horse, MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, The Foxie G Foundation, and Thoroughbred Placement Resources (Maryland); New Beginnings, and Second Call Thoroughbred Adoption and Placement (New Jersey); Blue Bloods Thoroughbred Adoption and Placement (North Carolina); Bright Futures Farm, R.A.C.E. Fund, and Thoroughbred Retirement, Rehabilitation and Careers (Pennsylvania); Equine Rescue of Aiken (South Carolina); Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses, Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue, Second Wind Thoroughbred Project, and War Horses at Rose Bower (Virginia); Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue (West Virginia). Earlier in November TAA announced 34 organizations were accredited in 2020—26 previously accredited and eight receiving accreditation for the first time, among the latter Second Call Thoroughbred Adoption and Placement in Helmetta, N.J. "We are extremely pleased to have achieved this designation,"

said Second Call president Laurie Lane. "Accreditation is a rigorous process, but one that we welcome as a continuous quality improvement mechanism. Earning TAA accreditation is another measure of our excellence as a premier provider of Thoroughbred rehabilitation. It reflects our commitment to our horses. We are proud to align with an organization that supports our standards of care."

Presented: The 2020 American Association of Equine Practitioners Research Award, to Dr. Katrin Hinrichs, whose pioneering research in the field of equine assisted reproductive techniques (ART) has transformed the state of equine reproductive practice around the world. A leading international authority in equine ART, Hinrichs is the chair of the Department of Clinical Studies at New Bolton Center and the Dr. Harry Werner Endowed Professor of Equine Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She joined Penn Vet in March 2020 after 22 years at Texas A&M University.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Fundraisers support injured jocks Miller, Flores: Gofundme pages have generated significant support for jockeys Jenn Miller and Victor Flores, each of whom suffered a recent serious injury. Frank Vespe reports.

What's it worth to vet a horse? The Racing Biz crunched the numbers on what's it worth to vet a horse. How much of a premium do buyers pay to buy a racehorse at a sale versus claiming?

Midatlantic claiming activity off over 30 percent: With the Covid-19 pandemic having a major impact, claiming activity in the Mid-Atlantic region was off by more than 30 percent in 2020 versus 2019. Vespe looks at the numbers.

"No rush" on speedy juvenile Like Segal: Ted Black takes a look at West Virginia-based rising star Like Segal, impressive on debut at Charles Town, but owner-trainer Javier Contreras says he's in no hurry—even if the horse is.

Trevor McCarthy, Katie Davis moving to NY: Jockeys Trevor McCarthy and Katie Davis will shift their tack to New York for the Aqueduct winter meet, Davis said on social media. Vespe provides the social media details.

Backtracks—Charles Curtis, jockey-turned-veep: The story of Charles Curtis, a jockey as a young man who became the first Native American Vice President. Jennifer Kelly tells the story.

Bombs away at Parx Racing: In the otherwise nondescript fifth race on a December Wednesday at Parx Racing, longshots came in first... and second... and third... and fourth... and fifth. The winner paid \$158.80. The two-dollar exacta, with a 97-1 shot, returned \$3,400.20. Vespe also ponders who had "The dime super" paying \$21,246.18.

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Gale. The Maryland-bred, a winner at Laurel in October and November for Bridlewood Farm, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Bob LaPenta, is out of Windy Forecast.

Splitzville. The Pennsylvania-bred gelding is by He's Had Enough out of Gentle Charmer.

Ark in the Dark. The 6-year-old, a regular at Parx since 2019, is by Midnight Lute out of Marion Ravenwood. To the non-*Raiders of the Lost Ark* disciples out there, Marion Ravenwood is the wife of main character Indiana Jones in the movie. A stakes winner for breeder My Meadowview, Marion Ravenwood is—of course—a daughter of A.P. Indy.

MILLIONAIRE // GRADED SW // OUTSTANDING PEDIGREE

MADEFROMLUCKY

LOOKIN AT LUCKY – HOME FROM OZ, BY PULPIT 2021 FEE: \$5,000 LF

**GRADED SW
AT 3, 4, & 5**

**WON/PLACED IN 12 STAKES,
6 GRADED STAKES**

Won: Peter Pan S.-G2, West Virginia Derby-G2,
Greenwood Cup S.-G3, etc.

Placed: Rebel S.-G2 (*to American Pharaoh*),
Discovery H.-G3, Excelsior S.-G3, etc.

EARNED \$1,351,500

Attractive Son of Champion **LOOKIN AT LUCKY**
Sire of Champion **ACCELERATE**,
Kentucky Derby-G1 winner **COUNTRY HOUSE**, etc.

Out of Full Sister to **LEADING SIRE TAPIT**
Sire Family of **RELAUNCH** and **RUBIANO**

**1ST CROP YEARLINGS
AVERAGED 5X THE FEE...**

1ST FOALS ARE 2YOS OF 2021



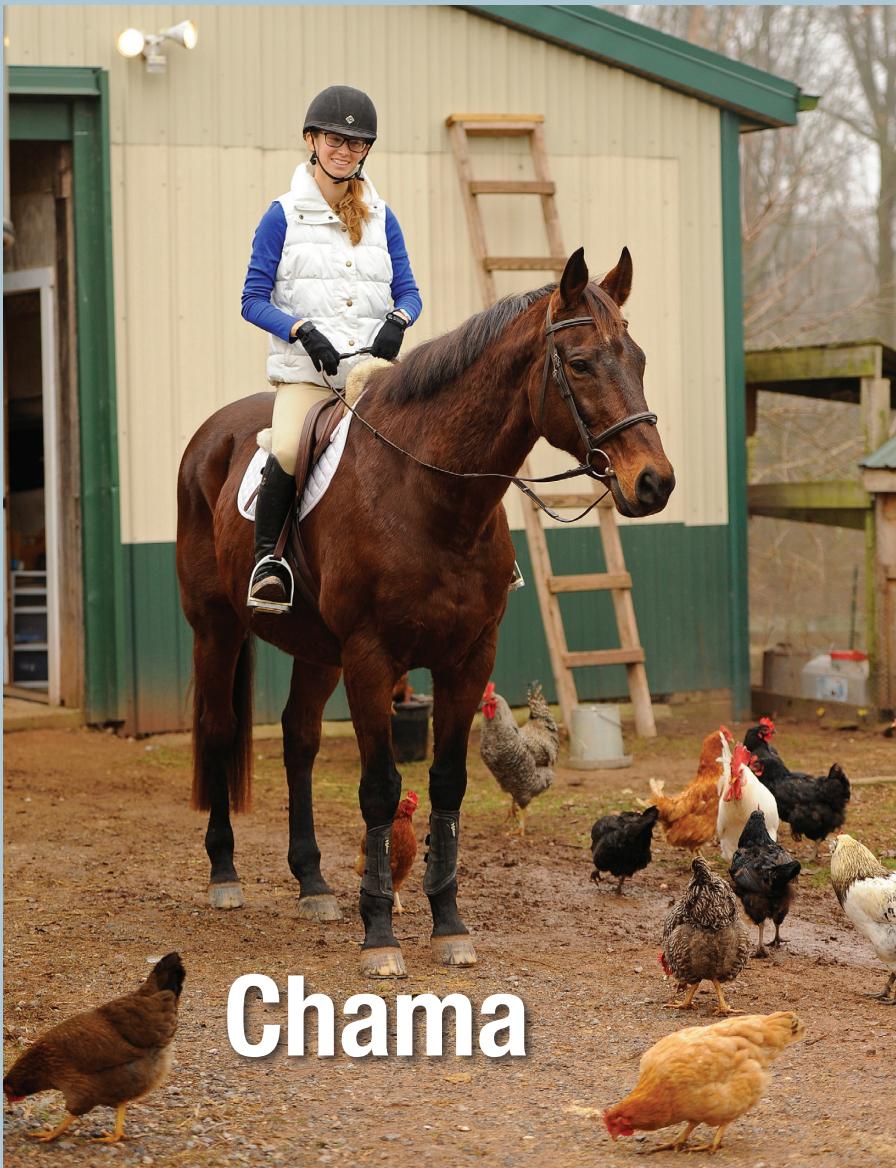
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PHOTO © BARBARA LIVINGSTON



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Meredith Chance and her new eventing partner Chama, and friends.

His story certainly wasn't written on the racetrack. He made one career start at Remington Park in 2001, finished a dismal 11th and earned \$62. What he accomplished—and the many lives he touched—in the years since made Chama the horse of a lifetime for several people.

Now 23, the dark bay son of the Mr. Prospector stallion Laabity and the Doonesbury mare Dee Dee Doon was bred in Oklahoma by Tom and Leslie Hubble's Tarjeta Ranch. The one start was made for the Hubbles and trainer Shawn Sisneros. All realized immediately they did not have a racehorse on their hands.

Through his owners' friendship and affiliation with former Jarrettsville, Md.,

breeder Joy Moore, Chama made his way to Maryland in pursuit of a new life in a more suitable role. Moore found a home for him with friend Jean Walter, who owns and operates a breaking and training farm in nearby White Hall, Md.

"I got him in August 2002, so that's over 18 years ago," Walter said. "But I'm still good friends with Leslie and Tom Hubble. I'm just so pleased that I keep all the cards on the horses I've had here. So many have come through here that I can't recall all their names, but I certainly did remember Chama. He was a lovely, very fancy horse."

A few months after Chama arrived, Walter was contacted by Monkton, Md., neighbor Debbie Baumgardner, whose then 13-year-old daughter was looking for

her next event horse. Their budget was modest, and therefore the horse could be green. Four-year-old Chama became future amateur steeplechase jockey Bethany Baumgardner's introduction to the off-the-track Thoroughbred.

"We bought him and brought him home, and my first day getting on him I went to put my foot in the stirrup and climb on from a mounting block. He took off and I fell in a heap," Baumgardner said. "Then I remembered they usually kinda jump on racehorses. But I didn't know anything about it at that point. I had competed through preliminary in eventing on some other horses, but I had never been around one off the track."

Chama had "all the right pieces," according to Baumgardner, and they progressed steadily through the intermediate level. "Once it all started to click, he became quite good."

Baumgardner became a working student for noted eventing coach Sally Cousins, and she and Chama relocated to Cousins' winter base in Aiken, S.C.

"He taught me so much and he was always very kind and very understanding. Before they did away with the long format three-day events, I did a one-star on him which had the steeplechase and roads and tracks phases. I remember asking Sally, 'What's the pace for steeplechase? The hurdles, what are we doing?' She said, 'Just jump and land and keep kicking!'"

Baumgardner followed those instructions to the letter. She came in quite fast, and Cousins was shocked. "Well, you said just jump and keep kicking," Baumgardner told her coach.

Baumgardner has since ridden winners over jumps, and been around the Maryland Hunt Cup course. Chama might have fit in there somewhere. "Looking back now, I think he would have been a great steeplechase horse," she said.

The cold reality of expense kept Baumgardner and Chama from continuing on to eventing's advanced level. She sold the gelding to Kristin Jankowski, a small animal vet from the Unionville, Pa., area who foxhunted him and competed at some local competitions. Jankowski kept Baumgardner happily in the loop during the years she had him, sending videos and extending an open invitation to visit Chama.

In late 2019, Jankowski contacted Baumgardner with news that she had

accepted a teaching position at the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. She was concerned about shipping the horse and what options she would have in her new situation. Baumgardner, then newly employed by trainer Tom Proctor, was heading to New Orleans with the string for the winter.

Chama came home.

"He ended up coming back, and then I actually had a local dressage trainer who took him for a while, but he was a little too forward for that so it didn't quite work out," Baumgardner said. "He was 21 at that time but he still bounces around, and he was just a bit too much for her so I picked him up in October (2020), brought him home and I rode him a few times. It was like slipping on a comfortable pair of old shoes. I hadn't ridden him in about 10 years, but he was just so perfect. Everything he was all those years ago, it was like a familiar friend being back."

Now an assistant trainer for Proctor, Baumgardner headed south to run the

operation's barn at Tampa Bay Downs right after Thanksgiving. Before her departure, she found the ideal home for Chama.

"Of course he could have stayed at my parents," she said. "But he's always worked for a living. I'm so worried that even though we have fields and other retirees here that he'd kind of lay to waste, almost. He wants to be doing something."

Through friend and riding instructor Chris Donovan, Baumgardner was connected to the Chance family of Dillsburg, Pa., not far from Harrisburg. Active in eventing, Paul Chance is a chief horse management judge for the United States Pony Club. Wife Lori is the district commissioner for Chestnut Hill Pony Club, which serves the Maryland region and the southern half of Pennsylvania.

Chama is the new mount of their teenage daughter, Meredith Chance. The family picked him up from the Baumgardners' farm in November.

"When I first met him, he always had his ears up, and had such a great

personality," Meredith said. "He really wants to be your friend. He was just so adorable and wants to please, which I love. I did know his age prior to looking at him. But after hearing all his background and actually meeting the horse, his age wasn't too big of a deal. He has pretty much done anything and is considered a schoolmaster. He's teaching me so much already, which has been wonderful."

Raised in the saddle, Meredith has been competing in novice level events and hopes to move up with Chama.

"I am doing a lot of strengthening exercises to build up that muscle again so he is able and comfortable competing," she said. "He is so sweet; one of the sweetest horses we've ever had in the barn. We have four horses here now, and he loves them. But we do have a few grumpy mares that don't like him yet."

"Or maybe they do like him," Lori Chance laughed. "But we do feel like we couldn't have ended up with a better horse."



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BRODY'S CAUSE	\$5,000	5	2	4	1
Not This Time	\$40,000	5	3	2	1

BRODY'S CAUSE

Source: TDN, 12/11

 SPENDTHRIFT



MAGGIE KUMMITT

Remembering Dr. Feelgood

I never met Dr. Feelgood, and I'm mad about it. The dark gray gelding was everything right about the Thoroughbred—fast, tough, smart, game, friendly, classy, cool. The December magazine covered his victory in the Dash for Cash on the West Virginia Breeders Classics card in October.

And now I'm writing his obituary.

He died Nov. 19 at Laurel Park after fracturing a hind leg while training. The news hit like a bag of bricks. I'm sure I hollered, "Come on, we just wrote about him," when I heard. There's pretty much nobody in my office—ever—so only the walls witnessed my lament. The December magazine was at the printer, people were going to read about him, and he was gone. Not fair, especially to him.

So here are the basics:

Bred in West Virginia by Francis Daniel III and owned by Jill Daniel, Dr. Feelgood made 15 starts—all at Charles Town. He won 13 of those, including his last six. Stakes wins came in the 2018 Robert Leavitt, 2019 Last Enchantment, 2020 It's Only Money and the last two editions of the Dash for Cash. He earned \$292,745 in purses, finished second once and sixth once. He never lost at 4½ furlongs, going a perfect 10-for-10 at perhaps the most unforgiving distance in racing. Trained throughout by Crystal Pickett,

Dr. Feelgood didn't race as a juvenile, but made up for it with five starts in each of his active seasons—winning four in 2018 and 2019 and all in 2020. The son of Fiber Sonde and the Polish Numbers mare Happy Numbers was injured during a routine gallop, doing what Thoroughbreds do every day, and euthanized when veterinarians deemed the fracture too severe to correct with surgery. Dr. Feelgood leaves behind his dam, three promising siblings and a slew of people who will miss him greatly.

As usual, there's more to the story. Pickett first saw her future pupil, a sway-backed, rascally foal causing trouble in the field in 2015.

"He was out there running and bucking, being ornery and biting his mother," Pickett said in December.

The trainer loved everything about him, and told her husband Greg, "That's the one I want."

Pickett did the early breaking and training in Florida, was the first person on Dr. Feelgood's back. Big and immature, he didn't race until May of his 3-year-old season. It's the only race Pickett missed. At the gym waiting for her daughter to finish practice, Pickett watched on her phone as Dr. Feelgood drew off to win by 5 lengths.

"It had been a long time coming," she said of the success. "When you take the time like that, you want to be right."

She was right.

Teamed with the only jockey to ride him in a race, Darius Thorpe, Dr. Feelgood kept winning. He became a barn favorite, and earned it with an attitude that endeared him to all.

"Everybody liked him," Pickett said. "His nickname was Panda Bear because he was this big, sweet horse who always wanted to put his nose in your pocket and look for peppermints. Everybody who came to the barn stopped to pet him. He was like that."

The panda turned into a grizzly on the track—laying waste to challengers the way a snowplow clears Route 70 in the winter. Dr. Feelgood won three more times in 2018, including the 7-furlong Leavitt—a race Pickett called her favorite.

"Everyone said he was not going to be able to go the seven-eighths, this, that and the other," she said. "He came to the top

of the lane and Opera Nite came to him and bumped him. Panda turned his head and looked at him like, 'You've got to be kidding me. Did you really just try to look me in the eye?' He hit another gear and went on and won."

Back for more in 2019, after an 11-month break, Dr. Feelgood won three in a row including two stakes, then turned in his only sub-par race when last of six in an open allowance for West Virginia-breds. He bounced back with a dominant score in late November.

Rested over the winter, he returned in May. All five starts this year were at 4½ furlongs. He won them all the same way—quick early, relaxed in the middle, triumphant at the finish. He ruled a July 30 allowance by 7½ lengths in :50.80 (the record is :50.09) without really trying hard. Head high, legs extending, he won for fun, and galloped out the same way.

"Sometimes when I watched him run, I'd be standing there holding my breath," Pickett said. "You never watch a horse in a stakes race and say, 'OK go ahead and wrap up, Darius.' So few horses you have that much confidence in. He was his own horse, that's for sure. He loved what he did."

He dominated the Dash for Cash in October and was aiming for the Frank Whiteley at Laurel Nov. 28.

From atop her stable pony Cooper, Pickett watched Dr. Feelgood gallop on his last day. She saw rider Jonathan Joyce pull up and hoped for some sort of tack malfunction. She was there quickly, so was the veterinarian. It wasn't meant to be.

"Cooper took him to the track his entire career, and he was standing there with him for his last moments too," Pickett said. "Even Cooper knew. They were like brothers. He misses him too."

Like always when it comes to injured horses, questions linger for their people.

"You sit there in your mind and go over and over it," Pickett said. "We didn't run him as a 2-year-old. He got every single winter off. We spaced his races. I feel like everything was done right. I don't know. I feel blessed and privileged that I had him for as long as I did. He left nothing but good things behind." *

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1ST

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Won as a 3YO defeating older horses in
his second start after a six month layoff

► **JOCKEY CLUB GOLD CUP -G1**

Defeating G1 SW and Breeders' Cup Classic-G1
runner-up **EFFINEX**

► **REBEL S. -G2**

In a faster time than **AMERICAN PHAROAH**,
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► **BROOKLYN INVITATIONAL -G2**

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JUSTIFY's Belmont S.-G1 victory later that day

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Taking Stock

Kentucky arrival Wicked Strong steps into diverse regional stallion market

By Joe Clancy

Twenty-four hours after talking up his new stallion Wicked Strong and the possibilities of big crops of Kentucky-sired racehorses coming along to bolster interest, Dr. Bill Solomon made a phone call.

“How about that?”

The recipient, on his way back from The Home Depot on a Saturday afternoon, laughed and replied with, “That’ll help the mare bookings.”

That was Wicked Strong’s 2-year-old son Brooklyn Strong capturing the Remsen Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct Dec. 5. The victory, achieved by a neck over Ten for Ten, put Brooklyn Strong into the conversation about this year’s top 3-year-olds and will indeed help Solomon attract mares to his Pin Oak Lane Farm in New Freedom, Pa. Wicked Strong spent five seasons at Spendthrift Farm, where he bred more than 130 mares three times. In addition to the Remsen winner, the 10-year-old stallion has sired Puerto Rican Grade 2 winner Wicked Runner and 2020 stakes winner Evil Lyn among 59 winners (through Dec. 15) this year. The son of Hard Spun is one of only three active regional stallions to produce a graded stakes winner—joining fellow Pennsylvanians Warrior’s Reward and Poseidon’s Warrior.

The newcomer heads a regional stallion roster facing an uncertain 2021 breeding season as the Thoroughbred industry adjusts to the coronavirus pandemic and its accompanying economic challenges.

Regional stallion markets depend on horses in the early days of their breeding-shed careers, but Solomon likes trying a different path. His successes have typically come with relocated Kentucky

stallions—Any Given Saturday, Offlee Wild, Albert the Great, Rockport Harbor, Deposit Ticket and Corinthian to name a few. Lord Shanakill, whose stud career began in Ireland, and Wicked Strong make up the list for 2021.

“Bringing up first-year horses, that day’s over for me at least,” said Solomon in December. “In a regional state, it’s really difficult to make a young horse. You don’t get the numbers or the quality of mares you need to make it work. A horse who’s just off the edge at a big farm, just a little below what they have, works for me if I can get him.”

Solomon has worked with Overbrook, Darley, Taylor Made, Spendthrift and others in Kentucky over the years and was looking to add a stallion this year. Temple City was on his list. So was Paynter. Both stayed in Kentucky, but when Wicked Strong’s name came up Solomon was interested. The \$375,000 yearling won as a 2-year-old, captured the Wood Memorial-G1 and Jim Dandy-G2, lost the Travers-G1 by a nose at 3, earned just shy of \$2 million. At stud, he attracted 190 mares in his first season (2016) and 139 the next year. He ranked among the country’s top five freshmen stallions in 2019 by winners (26) and stakes

horses (four). That success spurred a book of 131 mares in 2019, but Wicked Strong didn’t quite maintain that pace and lost ground in Spendthrift’s crowded stallion barn—home of Into Mischief, Malibu Moon, Omaha Beach, Vino Rosso, Bolt d’Oro, Goldencents and Mitole plus newcomer Authentic and others.

“Spendthrift has so many new horses coming in that they don’t like to keep horses who haven’t hit a home run around,” Solomon said. “That works out for people like me. He was a good racehorse, he’s sired just enough, he’ll soon be the leading sire in the region because of the books behind him and Spendthrift was great to work with.”

Spendthrift still owns Wicked Strong, who raced for Centennial Farm and trainer Jimmy Jerkens, with Pin Oak Lane leasing the bay for stud duty. Part of Spendthrift’s Share The Upside program when he entered stud, Wicked Strong comes with 50 or so owners of lifetime breeding rights and could be a popular choice for regional breeders looking to merge Kentucky promise with Pennsylvania’s owner/breeder incentives. Wicked Strong bred 54 mares in 2020, and was looking at an even smaller book this year if he stayed in Kentucky. Call it supply, demand, competition, whatever. He would have been far down the list at his own farm. He’s a leader in the Mid-Atlantic.

“He has a lot of 2-year-olds of 2020 and half that many who will be 2 (in 2021),” said Solomon. “That’s a lot of horses coming along behind him. He’s a gorgeous horse, he’s really nice to be



BARRIE B. REHTLER

around. It's hard to predict, but \$3,500 for a horse like that? That's a bargain."

And Brooklyn Strong's success doesn't hurt.

"From all the talk I've been hearing he's got a little buzz behind him," said Spenthurst's Mark Toothaker of Wicked Strong. "He ought to be a really good fit. I know there are some other young horses up there, but with a horse out there on the Derby trail that's always a big, big help for getting mares. Our ultimate hope is he catches fire and we wind up bringing him back, but even if that doesn't happen if he's a great fit in Pennsylvania and can continue to get mares that's what it's all about."

Pennsylvania carries on

When Northview Stallion Station announced the closure of its Pennsylvania division, the state lost two major stallions in Hoppertunity and Uncle Lino (who moved to Northview's Maryland farm).

But for every closed gate there's an open one. In addition to Wicked Strong, the Keystone state adds first-year stallion Rowayton. He joins the roster at Glenn and Becky Brok's Diamond B Farm in

Mohrsville, and brings pedigree as a son of leading sire Into Mischief (booked full at \$225,000 at Spendthrift) plus a race record that included two Grade 1 placings behind 2-year-old champion Game Winner. Brok compared the bay 5-year-old to his sire.

"People like me who missed the opportunity to buy into Into Mischief when he was \$7,500 or whatever should look at a horse like this," Brok said. "You don't learn from what you do right in this business. He's a lovely horse, big shoulder, big hip, a lot of substance. He's the real deal."

A \$320,000 yearling purchase at Saratoga, Rowayton made nine starts for Larry Best's OXO Equine, winning his debut and placing in the Del Mar Futurity-G1 and American Pharoah Stakes-G1 as a 2-year-old in 2018. The next year, Rowayton won an allowance and finished third behind Code of Honor in the Dwyer-G3. Retired after one start this year, Rowayton settled into life in Pennsylvania.

"He's a pretty cool horse," said Brok, "when he got here he just went in his stall, took a couple turns, dropped his head and started eating hay."

Brok said Best will send some mares to support the stallion, and chose Pennsylvania

in part because of a relationship with Brok through Brook Ledge Horse Transportation and to put Rowayton in a different region than former OXO runner Instagrand (who starts his stud career at Kentucky's Taylor Made Farm this year).

"Larry's buying good mares to start the horse with, you've got to put mares underneath stallions and he's going to support this horse," Brok said. "If people buy a breeding right and the horse hits, they're set."

Standing for \$5,000, Rowayton steps into a Diamond B roster that includes Boisterous, Eastwood, Talent Search and Uptowncharlybrown. The former raced for his breeder Cynthia Phipps for four seasons, winning seven graded stakes, then sold to Gary Barber and won once more in 2014. The son of Distorted Humor stood in California for five seasons and moved to Diamond B for 2020. He covered 31 mares last year. Brok likes what he sees so far and likes the stallion's versatility. He had sired nine turf winners in 2020 (through Dec. 15) led by Barber homebred and the Grade 1-placed California Kook.

Uptowncharlybrown continues to be a force in the state with 2020 standouts Wait



ADAM COGLIANESE

A winner for OXO Equine and trainers Jerry Hollendorfer and Don Chatlos, Rowayton joins the stallion roster at Diamond B Farm.

for It, Midtowncharlybrown and Grade 3 winner Dixie Serenade. Talent Search holds a spot among the Pennsylvania leaders, too, even with smaller mare numbers the last few years.

Like all regional stud farms, Diamond B will depend on its state incentive program as a source of revenue and a marketing tool. Last year, Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred program became a potential target for a reduction as Gov. Tom Wolf considered reallocating casino funds for education.

"Hopefully that doesn't happen this year," Brok said. "We're hoping we can get by. It's really sad because people had just gained confidence. Our program is the same as it's been and that's good for our industry. You break your maiden, you get 50 percent for breeders' bonus. I'm the poster child of how it works. I'd be back to galloping horses and walking hots and living in a tack room without it."

• Pennsylvania horseman Rich Miller sold his family's Mountain Springs Arena—home to rodeos, demolition derbies, concerts, horse sales and other events—in Shartlesville and opened Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra near Penn National Race Course. The new operation is home to stallions Tight Ten (a son of Tapit starting his stud career), Emperor Tiberius and Uncle Benny. Tight Ten won two of 14 starts for breeder Winchell Thoroughbreds, and finished second in the Saratoga Special-G2 to Call Paul. Owned by Premier Stallions,

the gray 5-year-old is a grandson of Verne Winchell's Grade 1 winner Fleet Renee.

Miller has done a little bit of everything in racing, and welcomes the chance to work with a son of leading sire Tapit.

"We've had a couple calls [from breeders] and we'll take it," he said. "It's a long, drawn-out deal working with a stallion. It takes awhile to get one going, but he's a nice horse. I really like his pedigree and he's got a really good temperament. You can't fault anything."

Going home at Northview

Once the home of the great Northern Dancer, when Windfields Farm ruled Maryland's (and the world's) stallion business, Northview Stallion Station's flagship farm gets a boost this year with Pennsylvania arrivals Uncle Lino and Hoppertunity joining six others in the historic stallion barn.

No pressure, boys, but the place housed the greatest stallion who ever lived and some not-so-bad mates in T. V. Commercial, The Minstrel, Assert (Ire), Deputy Minister and so on and then decades of more success in the form of Not For Love, Caveat, Smarten, Two Punch and the rest. The Maryland facility will get a facelift along with the new horses as projects include a new stallion barn next to the existing one, fencing and run-in sheds as Michael Golden (son of farm co-founder Richard Golden) takes an expanded role.

"I guess we left a void in Pennsylvania, but it had nothing to do with Pennsylvania," said Northview's Paul O'Loughlin. "It was about our business and trying to do our best to keep our business healthy. One farm makes more sense. Michael is enthusiastic. He wants the best farm."

O'Loughlin said Northview was renting additional space to board mares for clients, and that the Pennsylvania staff (other than manager Tim Fazio, who took a job with Kentucky's Forever Spring Farm) relocated to Maryland. Northview didn't add a new stallion, but "tried hard" and will get mare traffic for young regional leaders Golden Lad and Bandbox and veteran Great Notion plus the new arrivals from over the border. Hoppertunity's first foals are yearlings of 2021, as are Irish War Cry's, while Madefromlucky will have his first runners this year. Uncle Lino had six winners in his first crop (through Dec. 15) in 2020.

O'Loughlin likes the change of scenery for Hoppertunity and Uncle Lino, and hopes it attracts new mares while still appealing to breeders in Pennsylvania.

"It will be like bringing in new horses for Maryland," he said. "I think they'll get a fresh, new lease on life. You can have a Maryland-sired Pennsylvania-bred if you want and have a foot in both camps. The horse can go to the Maryland Million races, and the Pennsylvania-bred races."

Northview will continue to manage Great Notion's book as the \$7,500 stallion turns 21. He sired four Maryland Million winners in 2020, and led all Maryland sires by winners, stakes winners, stakes horses and earnings.

"Don't forget him," O'Loughlin said with a laugh. "His book is kind of full. I think we capped him off at 55 mares (in 2020) and we'll see how he goes, but he still produces quality horses. He's like an old pensioner. He's been through it. He has his own routine. He looks great, he loves life, he'll tell us how it's going. Nothing has changed for him."

• Maryland's other two biggest stud farms, Country Life in Bel Air and Anchor & Hope in Port Deposit, also stood pat in terms of adding to their rosters but continued to be encouraged by the stallions they have.

Anchor & Hope's Bourbon Courage and Imagining sent their second crops to the races in 2020, and produced stakes wins including a Maryland Million Classic score by Monday Morning Qb for Imagining. Bourbon Courage had sired 22 winners (through Dec. 15) on the year, one

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Stakes Horses**

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2YO SINGLINO posts a two-length
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1st \$100,000 First State Dash S.,
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2YO SP JUST A THOUGHT

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HOPPERTUNITY IRISH WAR CRY MADEFROMLUCKY UNCLE LINO

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Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 (cell), paul@northviewstallions.com
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INSET PHOTO © HOOFPRINTS INC.



LOUISE L. REINAGEL (2)

Top: Former Pennsylvania stallions Hoppertunity (left) and Uncle Lino join Northview Stallion Station's Maryland roster. Bottom: Warrior's Reward is Pennsylvania's 2020 leader in earnings and winners.

fewer than Golden Lad among Maryland's second-crop crew.

"My goal was to have a nice, \$7,500 to \$10,000 justified stallion and stay in Maryland, and we're still trying to do that," said Louis Merryman of Anchor & Hope. "If we had retired them 15 to 18 years ago, they would have been set with what they've done but we were covering almost 2,000 mares in the state then and now we're covering in the realm of 700. We and the other farms have brought in some good prospects for a regional program and some stack up as well or better than the second-tier stallions in Kentucky."

Anchor & Hope decreased its stallion fees across the board (Bourbon Courage, Holy Boss, Imagining and Long River) to help demand, and have gotten a good response from appreciative clients.

"My big fear was getting on the other side of Covid and everything that's going on with the horse market and the economy and not having any foals on the ground," Merryman said. "I don't think that helps anybody. We talked to everybody. We have some very loyal clients, and we wanted to help them."

Anchor & Hope's Holy Boss will have his first runners in 2021, which will provide some results to go along with the potential about his foals so far.

"They are big, good-looking and have a ton of personality," Merryman said of the first crop horses he's heard about and seen. "They have a little bit of orneriness to them and if you've seen him that's natural."



BARRE B. REINAGEL

SHAMROCK STALLIONS 2021



Best son of **SPEIGHTSTOWN** on dirt in the region

Graded stakes-winning sprinter of \$377,241. Won the G3 Hutcheson S, Spectacular Bid S (6 fur. in 1:09.40) and Pelican S (6 fur. in 1:09.96). Won his first start on dirt, in the slop going 6 fur. in 1:09.58 by 5 lengths.

By champion sprinter and emerging sire of sires **SPEIGHTSTOWN**. Out of the stakes-winning Street Cry (Ire) mare **NORTHERN STATION**, from a sire family.

First crop 2YO's of 2020.

\$2,500 LFSN; BC & MM nominated

Barbados

Speightstown–Northern Station



Grade 3 winner of **\$837,395**

2014 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year, Champion Handicap Horse and Champion Sprinter

2017 New Jersey-bred Champion Turf Runner Stakes winner from age 3 to 8, hitting the board 25 times in 33 starts. Nine total stakes wins on dirt and turf by a combined 36 lengths. Earned EIGHT triple digit Beyer Speed Figures.

By Florida champion sire **WILDCAT HEIR**. Out of a stakes-placed mare from a solid black-type family. First crop 2YO's in 2021.

\$2,000 LFSN; BC & MM nominated

Rainbow Heir

Wildcat Heir–Rainbow Pride

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JIM DULEY



ELLEN B. PONS (2)



Top: Monday Morning Qb scores in the Maryland Million Classic for Anchor & Hope Farm's Imagining. Center: Country Life Farm's Mosler (left) led the region's list of freshmen sires for 2020 in a close battle with Uncle Lino while another Country Life stallion, Tapit's son Divining Rod (right) will have his first runners this year.



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

The region's only son of Scat Daddy, No Never No More has first-crop yearlings in 2021.

He's like that. He shreds Jolly Balls, and lets you know he's there. I like that about him."

Country Life's Mosler was slugging it out with Uncle Lino for the lead among the region's freshmen sires of 2020, and led the way with eight winners and more than \$400,000 earned as the year reached its final two weeks.

"Things are percolating, he's knocking on the door to having a very good freshman year," said Country Life's Mike Pons. "He's doing his part and I'd like to think he'd have done better but we lost so much turf racing at Laurel this fall. That probably held him back a little, but we're encouraged."

Part of a big group of regional stallions sending their first crops to the races this year, Divining Rod will have runners in 2021. A Grade 3 winner for Roy and Gretchen Jackson, the son of Tapit bred 102 mares that year so Pons expects a solid group of 2-year-old runners.

"We get more encouraged by the day, people have babies and are excited," he said. "The Jacksons have five themselves and we'll get to see something."

Like some of the others, Country Life looked at new stallions but stood pat with a roster also including Friesan Fire and Super Ninety Nine.

"We looked at a few [new stallions], but didn't think the market warranted it," Pons said. "There are a bunch of good young stallions in the region and there wasn't anything that made me say, 'Wow, I'd drop everything and breed my mares to him' so we stayed where we are."

- The region's only son of Scat Daddy (still), Maryland sire No Never No More continues to impress Faith Leatherman, owner of Winding Creek Farm where the 6-year-old stallion stands.

"He's the most laid-back horse," said Leatherman. "He spent the summer in a paddock around all kinds of mares and was great about it. He's lovely to handle, very classy to be around and he loves people to come up to him and pet him and make him the center of attention."

And his first foals, yearlings of 2021, aren't bad either.

"We're really impressed with every one we've had," said Leatherman, who has 14 on the farm. "They're very smart, very strong foals. And he stamped them. He didn't have a gray. They're all dark bay with a little white on his head like him."

No Never No More didn't race, but packs a huge pedigree. His sire, who died in 2015, sired Triple Crown winner Justify, Breeders' Cup winner Mendelssohn, Grade 1 winner Dacita (Chi) and Group 1 winners

WARRIOR'S REWARD



Stomping the competition.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2020

Leading Active Sire:

- Money earned
- Winners
- Races won
- Black-type winners

Bred 211 mares his first two seasons in PA

Donny Brown 717.554.6731

Tom Reigle 717.497.0056



Barbara Wheeler 717.456.5666



EQU-PHOTO, INC.

Joevia, who won Monmouth Park's Long Branch Stakes in 2019 and finished third in that year's Belmont Stakes-G1, enters stud at Colonial Farms in New Jersey for 2021.

Lady Aurelia and Caravaggio among others. No Never No More is closely related to French champion and Irish stallion No Nay Never, a son of Scat Daddy and Cat's Eye Witness, a half-sister to No Never No More's dam Whosetheclownnow.

Owned by Irwin Olian's Tigertail Ranch, No Never No More bred 17 mares in 2019 and Leatherman said another 30 came his way in 2020. It's a start, especially for an unraced horse, and Leatherman hopes for even more as those foals get closer to the races.

"I love him, that's obvious," she said. "My gut tells me—I know, I know—we might have some runners in a couple years."

• Stakes winner and classic-placed Joevia arrived at Sam Fieramosca's Colonial Farms in Colts Neck, N.J., set to begin his stud career, and will get support from owners Michael and Jeff Fazio and Mike Basso. The partners are standing the son of champion Shanghai Bobby for \$2,500 live foal, but if a second mare is booked at the same time, the fee for the second will be \$500.

"He's genuine," said Fieramosca, who has been standing stallions since the 1950s. "A nice, grand-looking horse."

A winner in each of his three seasons on the track, Joevia (a combination of

Fazio family members' names) earned \$337,391 from 11 starts, won Monmouth Park's Long Branch Stakes as a 3-year-old and also finished third in the Belmont Stakes-G1.

"He had a few injuries that stopped him," said Michael Fazio. "Leading into the Haskell after the Belmont, he was training so good and looked so good and then we had to scratch him the day of the Haskell."

In his final career start last summer at 4, the Monmouth Cup-G3, he bowed a tendon.

"We're very proud of his success but disappointed at what could have been," said Fazio. "Because of how beautiful this horse is, and strong, and his heart, I decided to invest a tremendous amount of money [in approximately 20 mares] to support him."

Out of Peace Process (by War Front), also dam of stakes-placed Specially, Joevia descends from the graded stakes-winning Broad Brush mare Special Broad.

—Cindy Deubler

NOTES: Most stallion farms were playing wait-and-see with regard to public stallion shows, and how they fit in with pandemic rules, but all are open to private showings by appointment. Just make a phone call or send an email . . . Peace and Justice (\$3,500) stayed in Pennsylvania, moving to

Top Mid-Atlantic sires of 2020

Based on 2020 earnings through Dec. 14
(D-deceased; R-retired)

General earnings

Sire	strs	wnrs	earnings
Jump Start (Pa-D)	153	68	\$3,178,940
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	154	78	2,915,340
Fiber Sonde (WV)	94	53	2,396,952
Wicked Strong (Pa)	139	59	2,317,666
Great Notion (Md)	92	41	2,279,953
El Padrino (Pa-D)	85	38	1,993,212
Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	95	44	1,913,443
Golden Lad (Md)	53	23	1,554,218
Windsor Castle (WV-D)	74	34	1,390,155
Friesan Fire (Md)	75	28	1,389,922

2-year-old earnings

Sire	strs	wnrs	earnings
Wicked Strong (Pa)	44	10	\$465,256
Great Notion (Md)	20	6	423,517
†Mosler (Md)	25	8	400,814
Fiber Sonde (WV)	16	6	333,915
†Uncle Lino (Md)	14	6	302,818
Street Magician (Md)	2	2	252,408
Bourbon Courage (Md)	13	7	249,781
†Juba (WV)	10	5	186,057
Jump Start (Pa-D)	13	3	178,552
†Peace and Justice (Pa)	9	2	138,619

† Freshman sire

Freshmen sires

Sire	foals	strs	wnrs	earnings
Mosler (Md)	71	25	8	400,814
Uncle Lino (Md)	54	14	6	302,818
Juba (WV)	24	10	5	186,057
Peace and Justice (Pa)	21	9	2	138,619
Golden Years (WV)	6	2	2	46,177

Second-crop sires

Sire	foals	strs	wnrs	earnings
Wicked Strong (Pa)	222	139	59	2,317,666
Golden Lad (Md)	112	53	23	1,554,218
Bourbon Courage (Md)	88	45	22	1,141,696
Imagining (Md)	94	46	13	861,671
Last Gunfighter (Pa-D)	35	14	5	132,736
Hangover Kid (Md)	10	4	1	125,846
Eclipticalspraline (Md)	21	11	5	111,764
Xixixi (Pa)	16	5	1	55,776

Sires with graded stakes winners

Warrior's Reward (Pa)—2

EXCLUSIVO—

Clasico Luis Munoz Marin S-G3

NIGHT OPS—

Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H-G3

Wicked Strong (Pa)—2

BROOKLYN STRONG—Remsen S-G2

WICKED RUNNER

Clasico George Washington S-G3

Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)—1

FIRENZE FIRE—True North S-G2,

Vosburgh S-G2, General George S-G3

Cuba (Md-D)—1

LAKI—Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash S-G3

ENTERING STUD FOR 2021
JOEVIA



**Stakes-winning
son of
Shanghai Bobby**



EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (2)

"A debut winner sprinting at two, Joevia was an impressive stakes winner and classic performer at three. He is by an undefeated Champion Two-Year-Old Colt from the Harlan's Holiday branch of Storm Cat, that has also produced Into Mischief."

– Alan Porter

Pedigree Consultants Inc.

- Won his first start at 2
- As a 3YO, won Monmouth's \$100,000 **LONG BRANCH S**, placed 2nd in **Jimmy Winkfield S** and **Private Terms S**
- Third in **Grade 1 Belmont S**, to Sir Winston and Tacitus, by 1½ lengths
- Scored THREE consecutive 100+ Equibase Speed figures and earned \$337,391
- By Champion **SHANGHAI BOBBY** (\$1,857,000), representing the propotent sire line of **HARLAN'S HOLIDAY**, sire of leading sire **INTO MISCHIEF**
- From the family of **SPECIAL BROAD**, **BEWARE AVALANCHE**, etc.

\$2,500 LFSN; second mare, \$500

Colonial Farms

296 Route 537, Colts Neck, NJ 07722
Sam Fieramosca 732.542.3830 or 908.492.4695
sladycastle@verizon.net



EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

New Jersey-bred champion Rainbow Heir moves to Maryland's Shamrock Farm and will have his first runners in 2021.

Blackstone Farm in Pine Grove. In his first crop, the son of War Front was represented by 2020 stakes winner Like a Saltshaker . . . Warrior's Reward continues to be near the top of the regional rankings, and led the way among active stallions with 80

winners and just shy of \$3 million in 2020 earnings through Dec. 15 . . . Godstone Farm welcomed Pat On the Back to the Pennsylvania stallion ranks. The son of Congrats raced 30 times in five seasons, collected eight stakes wins and earned

\$1.1 million . . . No regional sire does better than Fiber Sonde when it comes to several variables, chief among them a \$1,000 stud fee from West Virginia's Beau Ridge Farm. The son of Unbridled's Song had produced 53 winners (including a regional-best eight stakes winners) with progeny earnings of nearly \$2.4 million through Dec. 15. His runners averaged more than \$25,000 in earnings for the year, and more than \$71,000 lifetime . . . West Virginia's Juba, who stands at Taylor Mountain Farm, was forcing himself into the region's freshmen-sires conversation with five winners from 10 runners including a stakes winner and four stakes horses . . . Normandy Invasion, who stood at Pin Oak Lane in 2020, was pensioned as a stallion, gelded and relocated to the National Thoroughbred Welfare Organization in Kentucky with plans to retrain him for a new career outside of racing . . . At least nine regional stallions have their first runners in 2021: Airoforce, Alliance, Blofeld, Divining Rod, Editorial, Holy Boss, Kobe's Back, Madefromlucky and Rainbow Heir, new to Shamrock Farm in Woodbine, Md., in 2021. *

Entering stud in 2021

Grade 2 Millionaire SW at 2, 3, 4 & 5 ■ A leading son of Congrats

PAT ON THE BACK

Won his second start (of 30 lifetime) in a Saratoga maiden special weight and went on to win an additional 8 races—all stakes, including the Grade 2 Kelso H with a 103 Beyer score (above), and 10 stakes placings.

"No matter what was put in front of him, he always tried and gave us 110%. He was a favorite around the barn because of the way he always showed up in a race."

Jeremiah Englehart, trainer



Godstone Farm
Littlestown, PA
Judy Barrett
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Inquiries to
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RIMROD

Danzig—Annie Edge (Ire), by Nebbiolo



\$76,712 A.E./starter

Sire of **LENAPE RIM** (\$617,366) and **VIANELLO** (\$263,255),
Neo's Grand Finale (\$347,932), Checkbouncin Billy (\$340,909), Averyon
(\$228,664), Majestic Michelle (\$196,375), Lemon Strudel (\$195,510), etc.

Multiple stakes-winning son of **DANZIG**, out of multiple
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Half-brother to champion and leading sire **SELKIRK**
and G3 **RORY CREEK**. Full brother to G3 **SEEBE** (graded
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\$1,500 LFSN

Registered PA stallion; Property of George Strawbridge Jr.

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LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Rodney Eckenrode shares a moment with the one and only Smarty Jones.

Equistar, Eckenrode find niche in Pennsylvania

By Tom Law

Rodney Eckenrode considers Equistar Training and Breeding a work in progress.

The full-service operation in the southeastern Pennsylvania township of Annville not far from Penn National Race Course opened its doors in 2004 and heads into the 2021 breeding season as one of the Keystone State's top stud farms. Equistar stands five stallions, including Pennsylvania legend Smarty Jones, and offers a multitude of services from foaling and boarding to breaking, training and layups.

And it continues to grow, even against some uncertainty in the state and amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"I've said many times, people say, 'You build it and they will come,' but I've always been in a position where I needed them to come so I could build it," said Eckenrode, a lifelong horseman who owns and operates Equistar with his wife Sharon. "And we're

growing this thing a little at a time as we see fit. But it's been great. Having the clients we have has been tremendous."

Equistar counts Pat Chapman and Tom McGrath's Swilcan Stable among those clients. They stand the farm's two leading stallions, champion and dual classic winner Smarty Jones and Grade 1 winner Poseidon's Warrior, who head into the 2021 season looking to build on successful careers in the region.

Young stallions Airoforce and Uncle Vinny and established sire Crown of Thorns join those two on the roster.

Eckenrode, who hosted a stallion show that turned into a rally to bring awareness of the horse business in the state prior to the 2020 season, remains optimistic for 2021 and beyond.

"I've been extremely blessed to just do something with horses my whole life," he said. "To get into the position we're in

today, to be able to have a family type business has been really good. With business on the up, I think. We're getting a lot of calls. People are moving forward.

"If you listen to the news I don't know what direction you would go. But I think you have to do what you're passionate about. We've been extremely blessed with good clients. People have trusted us with their stallions and it's been really good to have the quality horses, the nice stallions we have. They've made it extremely affordable for people at any level to get in and play."

The stud fees of Equistar's stallions come in right around the \$3,000 level, with Smarty Jones on the high end at \$3,500 and Crown of Thorns on the lower end at \$2,000 for 2021. Airoforce and Uncle Vinny will stand for \$2,500 and Poseidon's Warrior, sixth on the Pennsylvania sire list heading toward the end of last year and sire

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GAME WINNER

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LANE'S END



KIM PRATT

Poseidon's Warrior fills out a roster that also includes Uncle Vinny, Airoforce and Crown of Thorns.

of Grade 1 winner and \$2,218,250 earner Firenze Fire, will stand for a reduced \$3,000 after being priced at \$5,000.

Equistar's five stallions bred 67 mares in 2020, down about 18 percent from 2019 but not far off national trends that also saw decreases in several states. Pennsylvania's numbers ticked up in 2020, with 734 mares bred (compared to 686 in 2019).

That's an increase of 7 percent statewide, and Eckenrode hopes for a strong season in 2021 while also being mindful of a significant void in the state after the closure of Northview Stallion Station's division in Peach Bottom last summer. Northview's owners opted to close that

facility and move stallions Hoppertunity and Uncle Lino to Maryland. Former Northview stallion Peace and Justice stayed in Pennsylvania at Blackstone Farm.

"I'm hopeful this year will be good," Eckenrode said. "We do have a spot in our state with Northview leaving, which I'm concerned about with our overall mares being bred. Every time we go to [the state capital] Harrisburg to fight the fight they always say, 'Well how come your numbers are down? How come you're not breeding more mares?' Well, when you advertise a broken product or an unhealthy environment people will run to where it might look a little more appealing."

"I think it's going to be a good year. I hope for the stallion owners and the people who have been investing in their mares, in the future, the racing, that they're rewarded. You've got to think that supply and demand always plays in with Pa-breds that are competitive. Hopefully we can help contribute to that."

Eckenrode grew up around horses with his family in Lebanon, Pa., a few miles down State Road 422 from Annville. Back then it was pleasure horses and Arabians, and the latter eventually drew him away from home to Delaware.

Eckenrode started working at an Arabian breeding and training farm as a teenager. He finished high school in Delaware, where he also met his wife and started to establish some working relationships that continue today.

"My grandfather used to farm with horses," Eckenrode said. "We had some great horses that we grew up on, just riding around the farm. Then I wound up getting into the Arabian business . . . That was really good for me I guess. I had some good clients and people trusted us with some nice horses that went on to be national champions, reserve national champions. Lots of top 10s across the board on the national level."

Watching the decline of the Arabian industry, which in the mid- to late 1980s saw 33,000 to 35,000 registered horses, eventually led Eckenrode to Thoroughbreds.

"I've always had the passion for the Thoroughbred racehorse, I just wasn't close enough to it to get involved," he said. "When we moved up here [in 2003] one thing led to another. We started doing layups because we're real close to Penn National, so the location got us started. Then we started breaking a few and following them to the races. Then you get bit by the bug. I joke that the horse business is more addicting than drugs, it just doesn't hurt your body."

To hopefully avoid those injuries, Eckenrode takes a smaller role in the farm's breaking and training ventures of late. He hires local exercise riders to help, while staying involved in that, the stallion care and management and every other aspect of Equistar's business.

"The good and the bad when you take on these stallions is it's nice to have them, but it's a lot of responsibility," Eckenrode said. "If I were to get busted up doing some of the breaking, I couldn't afford that."

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By Black Type Winners/
runners: 10.3% lifetime

In the Mid-Atlantic

By Black Type Horses/
runners: 17.9% lifetime

In Pennsylvania

By 2020 Average
Earnings/runner: \$24,584

In Pennsylvania

By 2020 Black Type
Winners/runners: 7.1%

In Pennsylvania

By 2020 Black Type
Horses/runners: 10.7%



2021 stud fee:

\$7,500 LFSN

\$5,000 to PA mares

30% DISCOUNT-\$3,500 to first 50 PA mares to book

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Rolled to victory on Nov. 22 at Del Mar
Blistering the 7 furlongs in 1:22 1/5



Sire of Grade 1 Filly
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\$195,262

2nd in Del Mar Oaks (G1) on Aug. 22
Won or placed in 5 of 11 lifetime starts

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2020 Fee: \$3,000

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Mix Masters

*Besecker, Three Diamonds
get rewarded for racing consignments*

By Joe Clancy

If the billboard out front on York Road needs a theme next December, “Racehorses for Sale” would do the trick.

For the second consecutive year, horses of racing age carried the freight at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s mixed sale at Timonium, Md., Dec. 8—pushed along by consignments from major owners Joe Besecker and Three Diamonds Farm. Both have used the sale as a way to trim stable rosters, without giving away horses, and were rewarded once again. In 2019, Besecker advertised his Timonium consignment as a dispersal and then spent much of 2020 building back his stable via the claim box and purchases. The 2020 version was officially a reduction in racing stock, but offered buyers a chance to add quality runners. Besecker’s then 3-year-old filly Fly On Angel, winner of the Charles Town Oaks-G3 in August, topped the sale at \$195,000 as a racing/broodmare prospect. Purchased by Cypress Creek, she was reportedly headed to the breeding shed and a potential date with Laoban.

“I think it’s a good thing,” said Besecker, founder of the Emerald Asset Management investment company, of the trend toward selling ready-made racehorses late in the year. “It’s what I do in life, in the

market, it’s like portfolio management. I’m managing a portfolio [of horses]. I’ll never be as big as I was going into 2019. That was a lot. This year we were able to sell some, keep some, buy some others. At a sale,

people get to vet them, they get to see their conditions. It’s a good model for me.”

As good as the model was, Besecker nearly didn’t part with the sales-topper as her value went way beyond the sales ring and racetrack. Consigner Clovis Crane tried to get the owner to buy her as a 2-year-old in 2019, but Nick Cammarano landed the daughter of Palace Malice and the Posse mare Runge for \$23,000. Fly On Angel won her debut by 6 lengths at Penn National, placed in a stakes at Parx Racing and won a Parx allowance. Risked for a \$50,000 claiming price at Parx in August, she won again—and joined the Besecker barn. In her debut for trainer Claudio Gonzalez 18 days later, she pulled a mild upset in the Charles Town Oaks (a \$116,400 payday). Besecker watched—sort of—from an emotional place.

“My dad died Aug. 4 in 2019 and my mom died Aug. 4 in 2020,” he said. “The filly was running the night of her memorial service and I lost track of time. Clovis came up to me and told me she was running and I pulled up my account to

SALES LEADERS

\$195,000. Fly On Angel, dk.b./br.f., 2017, Palace Malice—Runge, by Posse (Ky.); Joseph Besecker (reduction of racing stock), Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agent; Cypress Creek LLC

\$150,000. B.c., 2020, Laoban—Dixie Gem, by Stonesider (N.Y.); Vinery Sales Agent XIX; Machmer Hall

\$80,000. Chocolate Bar, dk.b./br.c., 2017, Cairo Prince—Behavioral, by Include (Ky.);

Marshall W. Silverman, agent; Sean S. Perl Bloodstock LLC.

\$77,000. Gr./ro.c., 2020, Frosted—Hennyville, by Henny Hughes (N.Y.); Vinery Sales Agent LV; Cherry Knoll Farm/Peter Pugh, agent.

\$65,000. Turbo Drive, b.g., 2017, Teuflesberg—Lemme, by Lemon Drop Kid (N.Y.); Marshall W. Silverman, agent; Irvin S. Naylor.

\$60,000. B.f., 2020, Laoban—Stormy Salute, by Stormy Atlantic (N.Y.); Vinery Sales Agent X; Jamie Ness, agent.

\$57,000. Paynterbynumbers, b.f., 2016, Paynter—Ruth and Neva, by Cherokee Run (Ky.); Joseph Besecker (reduction of racing stock), Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agent; Theta Holdings I Inc.

\$55,000. B.c., 2020, Always Dreaming—Port Authority, by Stormy Atlantic (Va.); Daybreak Stables Inc.; Calumet Farm.

\$52,000. B.c., 2020, Cloud Computing—A Lot of Fabric, by Girolamo (N.Y.); McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds LLC, agent; Joseph Bucci, Kristian Villante, agent.



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Sales topper at \$195,000 was Hip 280, Fly On Angel, sold by Northview for Joseph Besecker's reduction of racing stock.

watch the race. She won, which was really cool and the whole crowd at the table just went bonkers. I thought she had a chance, but it was pretty special. She got a push that night. My mom helped her out.”

Sent off at 9-1 despite Besecker betting his entire account balance (“a whopping \$3” as he put it) to win, Fly On Angel paid \$20.20 while scoring by a half-length. Somewhere Helen Marie “Lynne” Besecker, 86 when she died, smiled.

Consigned by Northview Stallion Station, the Besecker horses included multiple winners Cerulean Springs (purchased for \$34,000 by Milam Racing Stables) and Acker (\$38,000, Jesse Iglesias), and maiden filly Perfect Kind (\$25,000, Cheryl Manning). Four-year-old filly Paynterbynumbers sold as a racing/broodmare prospect for \$57,000 to Theta Holdings after winning her first start for Besecker off a \$40,000 claim. Besecker bought four horses at the sale, two from his consignment, and kept several who did not meet their reserves. In a sign of market connectivity, he even bought one from Three Diamonds.

In addition to their place in the Fasig-Tipton catalog and website, the Besecker horses were all listed in a wire-bound independent catalog with pedigree information,

speed figures and other details prepared by Northview and racing manager Jeff Matty.

“Fasig did a great job for us, Northview has worked really hard and Jeff did a ton of work to get everything out there,” said Besecker. “It was good for me and I think other people should look at this model too.”

As for the future, Besecker won’t repeat his 774-start 2019 season, which produced nearly \$5 million in purse earnings, but isn’t going anywhere. He’ll be active at the track, in the claiming game—and at the sales. Like everyone else in the industry, he’s dealing with the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic and other unknowns in terms of racing opportunity.

“I have no idea what’s going to happen with racing in the next three to six months,” said Besecker, whose horses had made 130 starts in 2020 through Dec. 15. “That was part of it. I still feel we’ve got to work on racing. There are many, many challenges that need to be addressed. Covid is making it even harder. As a business it’s hard for me to stay away, but it’s not always easy to be in.”

Part of Marshall Silverman’s big consignment, the Three Diamonds horses were popular and included solid prices for a trio of now 4-year-olds. Cairo Prince

colt Chocolate Bar, who won at Saratoga over the summer, went for \$80,000 on a bid by Sean Perl Bloodstock. Leading steeplechase owner Irv Naylor landed Teuflesberg gelding Turbo Drive, who won three times and earned \$203,510 for Three Diamonds, for \$65,000. The New York-bred placed in a New York Stallion Series stakes in August. Naylor and trainer Cyril Murphy bought Maryland-bred O Dionysus at the same sale in 2019, but have yet to convert him to a hurdler. Cassandra Horner bought the Hard Spun colt Turn of Events, who won twice for Three Diamonds, for \$47,000.

Owned by Kirk Wycoff and his son Jordan, Three Diamonds was fifth in the national owners’ standings with more than \$3.8 million earned from 273 starts through mid-December. The stable isn’t necessarily going to get smaller with younger horses coming along in 2021, but selling a few fit the business model.

“Those guys race and are willing to stay on with the racing end of things,” said Silverman. “We sold some in that \$25,000 to \$80,000 range, which was good. We moved some along and found new homes, and we kept some. This was the third year I’ve sold horses for them there and every year we’ve done a little better.”



FASIG-TIPTON PHOTOS (2)



Top: Carrie Brogden spent \$150,000 for a Laoban colt, the highest-priced weanling. Bottom: An Always Dreaming colt sold by Virginia breeders Jimmy and Emily Day was the top selling Mid-Atlantic-bred at \$55,000.

Silverman offered 47 horses, and sold 36 to lead the way for consignors—though Northview topped a tight gross leaderboard \$555,100 to \$546,000—and was encouraged by the sale's final details.

“Considering the circumstances, Covid and all of it, we were busy selling racehorses,” he said. “There were a lot of agents and trainers there and it seemed like there was a lot of internet bidding. It could have been a better sale, but you could say that about every sale. We’re all down a little bit this year.”

Northview sold 33 of its 45 offered for an average of \$16,821 (to \$15,167 for Silverman). Pushed along by the three weanlings at the top, Vinery Sales led consignors by average at \$20,446 and was third by gross at \$490,700.

While racehorses fueled much of the sale, weanlings proved to be popular too—especially those by the right sire. Kentucky buyer Carrie Brogden, a Timonium regular, spent \$150,000 to buy a New York-bred colt by freshman sire phenom Laoban. Bred by Team Millennium Stable and consigned by Vinery Sales, the bay colt is out of the Stonesider mare Dixie Gem from the family of Grade 2 winner Thunder Achiever and Grade 3 winners Street Game and Pure Gossip.

New York-breds also filled in the second- and third-highest weanling prices. Trainer Peter Pugh bid \$77,000 to get a Frosted colt for Cherry Knoll Farm. The gray colt, also consigned by Vinery, is out of the stakes-placed Henny Hughes mare Hennyville and from the family of Pennsylvania-bred Grade 1 winner and

\$2.6-million earner With Anticipation among others. Trainer Jamie Ness went to \$60,000 to buy a Laoban filly, also from the Vinery consignment. The bay is out of the Stormy Atlantic mare Stormy Salute and from the family of stakes horses Honour Colony, Lindsay Jean and traces back to champions Northernette and Storm Bird via fourth dam Oceana.

Virginians Jimmy and Emily Day received \$55,000 on a bid by Calumet Farm for their weanling colt by Always Dreaming out of the Stormy Atlantic mare Port Authority. Bred in Virginia and raised on the Days' farm, the Always Dreaming colt was the highest-priced Mid-Atlantic-bred at the sale, and the result of a 2015 visit to Fasig-Tipton's February mixed sale.

Emily Day and fellow breeder Susie Chatfield-Taylor make a semi-regular “girls’ trip” to the sale to scout for mares, short yearlings and the like. Port Authority was a rare 2-year-old in the catalog.

“It’s a weird place to see a 2-year-old filly,” Emily said, “but she was pretty, beautiful really. She looked like a painting and was so balanced and attractive.”

Day paid \$21,000. A full-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Icy Atlantic, Port Authority never raced but her foals include an unraced and “still maturing” 4-year-old Congrats gelding on the farm, an unraced 3-year-old Upstart colt sold by the Days for \$65,000 as a weanling and a 2-year-old Exaggerator filly headed to a sale this year. Now just 8, Port Authority was not bred for 2021. The Days were mulling stallion decisions, though Cupid was in the mix. Regardless of her mate, the Louisiana-bred will do her job.

“She is a consummate professional,” Emily said. “She has foals that are fairly medium-sized, but then they have great growth potential and take off running once they get up and go. We were really happy with [the Always Dreaming colt]. We usually target the weanling sales with ones that are showing themselves well at that stage which not all of them do. He came along really well, kept progressing. Jimmy did all the work with him. He was a little bit of a colt, but he loves to work. He comes out of the stall and just marches.”

The markets for some weanlings and (especially) broodmares were difficult for sellers, but—as Silverman put it—that can also mean opportunity.

“There were some pretty good buys on some mares here,” he said. “If you have the guts, if things get better there’s a lot of opportunity to pinhook next year because you’re buying them discounted, the foal crop’s getting less and less and buyers

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should bounce back. The whole game goes in cycles, we all know that, and this is another one."

Five horses sold as broodmare prospects, none more successfully than *Appealing Honor*. Consigned by Bill Reightler, and purchased for \$40,000 by Reightler on behalf of R.H.T. Partnership, the now 5-year-old mare won once in five starts for owner Frank Demarco. The daughter of *Quality Road* and the *Valid Expectations* mare *Quanah County* brought a deep pedigree to Timonium as a half-sister to stakes horses *Quantum Miss*, *Tonashan* and *Kelwynne*.

Fly Girl, consigned by Northview Stallion Station, led the in-foal broodmare division, at \$25,000 on a bid by Becky

Davis. Bred by Richard Golden's Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds, the *Jump Start* mare won twice and placed in the Maryland Million Lassie. Now 8 and sold in foal to first-year *Medaglia d'Oro* stallion *Enticed*, *Fly Girl* has one foal of racing age, the unraced 2018 Declaration of War filly *Berry Good* who sold for \$47,000 as a yearling.

NOTES: The sale produced \$2,345,600 in gross sales from 182 horses sold, down from more than \$4.8 million (on 249 horses sold, including 95 from Besecker) in 2019. The average price was \$12,888 (down from last year's record \$17,605) while the median was \$5,000 (down from \$8,000). The 2020 numbers were more in line with those from 2017 and 2018. *

25-Year figures from the Fasig-Tipton winter mixed sale

Year	No. sold	Average	Gross	RNAs	Top Price
2020	182	\$12,888	\$2,345,600	23%	\$195,000 3yo f. <i>Fly On Angel</i> (by <i>Palace Malice</i>)
2019	249	17,605	4,383,700	19%	\$450,000 2yo c. <i>Laddie Liam</i> (by <i>Golden Lad</i>)
2018	201	9,508	1,911,100	22%	\$87,000 wlg.c. by <i>Peace and Justice</i>
2017	221	11,078	2,448,200	21%	\$105,000 3yo c. <i>Carradine</i> (by <i>Grasshopper</i>)
2017	141	6,428	906,400	29%	\$70,000 yrlg.c. by <i>Dialed In</i>
2016	104	8,443	878,100	13%	\$76,000 yrlg.c. by <i>Curlin</i>
2014	110	8,680	954,800	33%	\$60,000 brm. <i>Delaneys Star</i> (by <i>Latent Heat</i>), in foal to <i>Majestic Warrior</i>
2013	133	11,404	1,516,700	28%	\$100,000 3yo f. <i>Mystic Love</i> (by <i>Not For Love</i>)
2012	140	8,216	1,150,200	28%	\$100,000 wlg.f. by <i>Read the Footnotes</i>
2011	260	14,382	3,739,350	23%	\$260,000 brm. <i>Salty Romance</i> (by <i>Salt Lake</i>), in foal to <i>Cosmonaut</i>
2010	158	6,127	968,100	43%	\$130,000 <i>Baltimore Belle</i> , 07 f., by <i>Bowman's Band</i>
2009	169	4,593	776,300	37%	\$95,000 brm. <i>Crystal Bull</i> (by <i>Holy Bull</i>), in foal to <i>Pollard's Vision</i>
2008	186	6,287	1,169,400	37%	\$65,000 brm. <i>Colonial Ball</i> (by <i>Pleasant Colony</i>), in foal to <i>Henny Hughes</i>
2007	287	7,166	2,056,500	39%	\$62,000 wlg.c. by <i>Golden Missile</i>
2006	338	7,924	2,678,300	34%	\$95,000 wlg.c. by <i>Tapit</i>
					wlg.c. by <i>Two Punch</i>
2005	375	9,328	3,497,900	32%	\$140,000 brm. <i>Your Out</i> (by <i>Allen's Prospect</i>), in foal to <i>Lion Hearted</i>
2004	363	10,640	3,862,300	21%	\$160,000 wlg.c. by <i>Malibu Moon</i>
2003	360	7,506	2,702,300	22%	\$150,000 wlg.f. by <i>Malibu Moon</i>
2002	378	6,557	2,478,600	30%	\$103,000 wlg.f. by <i>Silver Charm</i>
2001	448	7,881	3,530,500	23%	\$100,000 wlg.f. by <i>Citidancer</i>
2000	566	7,625	4,315,700	20%	\$142,000 brm. <i>Poised to Pounce</i> (by <i>Smartenn</i>), in foal to <i>Polish Numbers</i>
1999	483	11,198	5,408,700	16%	\$240,000 wlg.c. by <i>Boston Harbor</i>
1998	437	8,423	3,680,700	15%	\$120,000 brm. <i>Final Deputy</i> (by <i>Deputy Minister</i>), in foal to <i>Two Punch</i>
1997	428	6,273	2,685,000	18%	\$75,000 brm. <i>Truth and Beauty</i> (by <i>Private Terms</i>), in foal to <i>Two Punch</i>
1996	391	5,831	2,280,100	14%	\$65,000 brm. <i>Lady Bering</i> (by <i>Lord Gaylord</i>), in foal to <i>Not For Love</i>
1995	364	4,266	1,552,900	17%	\$29,000 wlg.f. by <i>Caveat</i>

BID DISTRIBUTION

final bid	no. sold	total amount
≥ 100,000	2	\$345,000
≥ 75,000	2	157,000
≥ 50,000	5	289,000
≥ 25,000	19	622,500
≥ 10,000	34	503,000
≥ 5,000	37	252,000
others	83	177,100

LEADING WEANLING SIRES

Gross Sales

Laoban (3)	.....	\$253,000
Frosted (1)	.....	77,000
Always Dreaming (1)	.....	55,000
Cloud Computing (1)	.....	52,000
Mor Spirit (1)	.....	37,000
First Samurai (1)	.....	30,000
Sharp Azteca (1)	.....	28,000
Unified (1)	.....	26,500

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

Northview Stallion Station, agt. (33)	\$555,100
Marshall W. Silverman, agt. (36)	546,000
Vinery Sales, agt. (24)	490,700
Bill Reightler, agt. (26)	313,300
McMahon of Saratoga	

Thoroughbreds, agt. (11)	92,500
Harry L. Landry Bloodstock, agt. (4)	55,500
Daybreak Stables (1)	55,000
Dark Hollow Farm, agt. (8)	43,600
Smart Angle LLP,	

Walnut Green, agt. (7)	40,700
Greenmount Farm, agt. (5)	39,500

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Vinery Sales, agt. (24)	..... \$20,446
Northview Stallion Station, agt. (33)	16,821
Marshall W. Silverman, agt. (36)	15,167
Harry L. Landry Bloodstock, agt. (4)	13,875
Bill Reightler, agt. (26)	12,050

LEADING BUYERS

Cypress Creek (1)	..... \$195,000
Machmer Hall (1)	..... 150,000
Theta Holdings I (4)	..... 109,500
Cherry Knoll Farm	
(Peter Pugh, agt.) (2)	..... 94,000
Sean S. Perl Bloodstock (1)	..... 80,000
Danielle Agnello (7)	..... 71,100
Jamie Ness, agt. (2)	..... 68,000
Irvin S. Naylor (1)	..... 65,000
Becky Davis, agt. (5)	..... 61,000
Wazuzu Racing (6)	..... 58,700
Calumet Farm (1)	..... 55,000
Super C Racing (4) 54,900
DR Investments (2) 53,000
Joseph Bucci	
(Kristian Villante, agt.) (1) 52,000

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FIRST 2YOs IN 2021

A Clear Purpose

Blind wraps up a career in Maryland racing office

By Vinnie Perrone

At Baltimore City Hospital, fall of 1953, three young boys with polio shared a room. One died. Another found breath with an iron lung. The third was transferred to the polio ward at Kernan Hospital on city's edge. There, a young physician treated the 6-year-old, gauged the trends, cracked the door to possibility.

Eddie Blind, the patient's father, was a racing man, a starter at Thoroughbred tracks in Maryland and New Jersey. A year earlier, he'd cued strides into the first Washington, D.C., International at Laurel Race Course. Now, he sought a fair start for his son, Coley.

The doctor whispered hope: Stunt the virus, bring the nerves to fire, thwart paralysis, invite recovery. But even bright scenarios foreshadowed challenges.

For the next seven decades, the challenges rose one by one, racetrack challenges Coley Blind addressed with heart and bested. At 73, he retired in November with a resume in need of binder clips: assistant starter, paddock judge, placing judge, horse identifier, patrol judge, clerk of scales, starter, assistant racing secretary, steeplechase steward and, for the final 15 years, stakes coordinator for Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course.

"You'd like to have about 10 Coleys in your office," said Georganne Hale, the tracks' vice president and former longtime racing secretary. "He could do it all, and he did it all with perfection."

At a time of Covid-19, in the afterglow of the Maryland Million and Swiss Skydiver's Preakness toast to females, Blind thought it time to pass the reins and close the bulky workbook. Or maybe add an appendix.

From her days as Barclay Tagg's assistant, trainer Kelly Rubley had untold honest, insightful, welcome track transactions with Blind. When he spoke his exit plan, she effectively rerouted him.

Blind knows the game and its machinations, she reasoned, the racetracks, the players, the native subtleties. He could help a big, diverse stable by doing the administrative legwork that bedevils: surmising condition books, making entries, consulting jockey agents.

"Coley's been in the racing office a long time and knows the industry better than anyone," Rubley said. "I thought about it for a while, and I presented a position to him, which is a huge benefit to me. Actually, we're creating the position as we go."

A new sprout, for Blind, means one more field to harvest. The souvenirs of his childhood illness remain mostly unnoticed: With a diminished right forearm and biceps, he still embraces racing opportunities. With a left leg shorter and left foot a size and a half smaller (and slightly wider)

than his right, he moves glibly to the next calling.

Talk about diversity in the workplace. Before he could drive, Blind, with brother Frank, steered horses into races at Timonium and Monmouth as assistant starters to their dad. Two things Eddie Blind taught his boys: horses and golf. Story goes that Eddie carded a 71 at age 71; he hit the links often, and the father of Frank's best friend owned a driving range. Frank became a golf pro; Coley chose a different course.

"I normally suck at golf," Coley said, self-deprecation a well-used club in his bag. "I didn't put as much work into it. Frank worked at it."

Coley said he played occasionally, found "moments of glory" but craved a faster track. In his mid-20s, he climbed the steps to the patrol-judge platform outside the Pimlico quarter pole and marveled at the view: Secretariat, under Ron Turcotte, moved like an illusion, too sculpted and electric to be real, leading Sham and four others into the stretch of the '73 Preakness.

"There were people who would rush the rail from the infield," Blind said. "Back in those days, they could just go through the hedge. And they were there. They were screamin' and hollerin', jumpin' up and down, waving their arms, and I think that's why Turcotte put him out a little bit further and just let him go."

For Blind, the dazzling 2½-length score—after a ridiculous, roundabout run through the first turn—marked Secretariat a singular Thoroughbred colossus. Across the years, he and dad Eddie would tease the



BARRIE B. REIGHTER

subject with playful musings: Eddie, colorful in dress and spoken tales, thought both Citation and Count Fleet superior.

In 1980, Coley became embroiled in a more public debate, venomous and consequential. Genuine Risk, the Kentucky Derby-winning filly, reached the Preakness a diva to her troupe, a danger to her rivals. Then came her audacious charge at front-running Codex toward the Pimlico stretch, and the national rumpus that chased Codex's conspicuous move to victory for jockey Angel Cordero Jr.

About 10 feet high in his stand, top of the stretch, Coley Blind stood with a headset that connected him to the stewards, and to other patrol judges who would

relay saddle-towel numbers of the passing leaders. Blind saw Cordero glance back furtively on the far turn, Codex proceeding on a line as if he needn't head home. Then, deep into the turn, the filly shadowing outside, Codex went super-wide; Blind related his observations to the stewards as Codex pulled away to a triumph clear and disputatious.

"I'm watching the race, and I knew from the Derby that Genuine Risk closed," Blind recalled. "I'm watching Cordero come around on Codex, and he's looking over his shoulder to the right. And I'm goin', 'What's he doing?' And he's kind of creeping out a little bit. He looked back for

her and carried her out. He made her run a greater distance."

The stewards—chief J. Fred Colwill, associates Clinton Pitts Jr. and Edward Litzenberger—posted no official inquiry. "That's what shocked me," Blind said. "We had a car that picked us up and dropped us off to go back to the office between races. And when I come back: There's no inquiry sign?"

Following a 10-minute review, the stewards dismissed the objection of Genuine Risk jockey Jacinto Vasquez without further consulting Blind.

"Cordero mugged me and got away with it," Vasquez told the *Baltimore Sun*. "He pushed my horse out into the parking



SKIP BALL

In 1968, the entire Blind crew was working at Pimlico: (from left) Frank and Coley as assistants to their father, starter Eddie Blind (center), along with cousin Eric.

lot. He undressed me, barbequed me and took me to the clubhouse.”

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas’ first classic victory provoked a maelstrom. Seething callers overloaded the Pimlico switchboard. Death threats reached Cordero. Reporters hounded the stewards. Bert and Diana Firestone, Genuine Risk’s owners, appealed the decision to the Maryland Racing Commission. And Coley Blind, then 33, was thrust into the chaos.

In a report filed two days after the race, Blind stated, “It appeared that 6 [Codex] took No. 5 [Genuine Risk] wide on purpose,” an observation he repeated during the hearing.

Colwill shot back, “I don’t think Coley’s ever even ridden a horse. I don’t want Coley Blind’s conclusion—I wanted my own. I’ve been around four or five times as long as he has.”

The commission members heard Litzenberger describe the scantest contact between the horses as a brush that “wouldn’t break an egg,” and rejected too the Vasquez claim that Cordero’s whip

had slashed Genuine Risk — upholding the stewards’ decision 3-1.

Forty years later, Blind revisited the episode with the same even-toned dispassion. “I was put in the middle of everything,” he said. “They put me on the stand during the hearing, and they tried to make me make an opinion. I said, ‘Patrol judges are not there to make decisions or to adjudicate anything. We are there to make observations, and to report our observations. The stewards are there to make the judgments.’”

Blind made a decision to leave the racetrack, described by Hale as “a little itch,” in the 1990s. He took a job for general contractor Frank Favazza, who owned Thoroughbreds and later served on the racing commission. A clerk initially, Blind earned promotion to field engineer when colleagues discovered he could read structural blueprints.

“My wife says I’m spatial,” he offered.

He got a license selling property-casualty insurance after that and renewed his racetrack policy. Timonium lacked an entry clerk and placing judge as the century

turned; Blind answered the call. “Whatever they needed,” he said.

This his old colleagues knew. When the Laurel Park racing office met a minor staffing shortage in 2005, Hale phoned Blind: Can you come in and help a couple days a week? “Well,” he said, “a couple days a week turned into goin’ back to the racetrack.”

As stakes coordinator, Blind effected a new blueprint, incorporating technology, an extensive database and stall-side charm to solicit interest. To best build a race field, he said, you first build trust.

“Management paid my salary,” he said. “Management was who I worked for. But the horsemen were who I had to work with. So, if they lost their trust in me . . . it would just kill my job.”

He would mass-email stakes-closing reminders with all the particulars, highlighting female races in pink, turf races in green. The task, he acknowledges, became easier after the tracks waived nomination fees and paid back to sixth in stakes.

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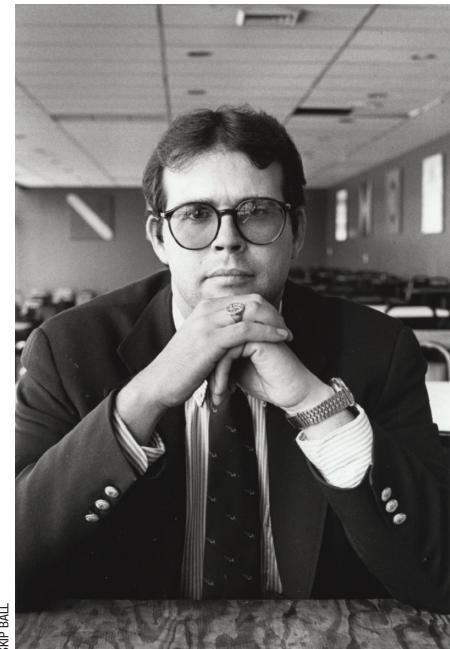
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SKOP BALL

Left, as a patrol judge in 1980, Coley was called to testify in the Genuine Risk-Codex Preakness case. Coley Blind's home office walls are covered with treasures, including a favorite 1948 photograph of him held by his father, who stands at the head of the great Citation.

"It helped because I could say to a trainer, 'Listen, you've got a shot. You may not win it, but you can hit the board and be stakes-placed. And you're not gonna lose any money as far as your entry and start fees go.' It gave me a selling tool."

A stakes coordinator plays the long game, Blind said, values and preserves relationships. The trainer who dismisses you today might be needed tomorrow.

"He was a professional, believe me, in coaxing the trainers to go into certain stakes," Hale said. "And all the trainers liked him. He would bend over backwards for them: 'Coley, can you get me a van to ship my horse?' He would go out of his way to help them get the horse here and run in the stake for us."

As a parting shot, Blind helped nudge trainer Kenny McPeek toward the 2020 Preakness with the filly Swiss Skydiver. Conversations began pre-summer for the Oct. 3 race, Blind said, gathered intrigue and nuance as autumn called. McPeek seemed open to trying Authentic and Art Collector in the Preakness; less so Derby favorite Tiz the Law. Eleven days before the race, trainer Barclay Tagg formally removed Tiz the Law as a Preakness candidate, news that brought McPeek no surprise.

To that point, Coley Blind retained trade secrets. "I spent a lot of time on the phone with Kenny," he said. "The information I gave him helped him move along to the Preakness."

She became the sixth filly to win the race.



BARBIE B. REIGHTLER

"Coley was amazing in that job," said trainer Damon Dilodovico, who won his first graded stakes in October when Laki took the Grade 3 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash. "He just had a read on what was goin' on. He knew what races I was pointin' to before I even told him."

Early in his career and before Blind's stakes tenure, Dilodovico said, he lost track of the Maryland Million nomination deadline and delivered the necessary parcel to the stable gate minutes before midnight of the closing date. "With Coley, something like that definitely wasn't gonna happen," he said. "It was impossible to miss a nomination with him because he was always calling with information. You couldn't make a mistake."

Bloodlines help explain it. Coley's great-grandfather Rudolf Blind raced Thoroughbreds in England. Granddad Wolfstan Blind trained horses in Canada. Born there, dad Eddie left school in sixth grade, got his first gate job in 1928, made Maryland home in 1947 and served as starter there 32 years.

Eddie's brother, Eric, known as big Eric, rode in two Derbys and a Preakness, won the 1926 Louisiana Derby at 18 astride Bagenbaggage and became a starter in Louisiana and a starter and steward in Ohio. His son, little Eric, Coley's first cousin, succeeded Eddie as Maryland starter. Little Eric's brother, little Eddie, became starter in Louisiana and Ohio.

"It was like a family business," said Coley, the only Coleman in the lineage.

He described minimal backstretch dealings, did some hotwalking but generally

avoided barns. "I'm allergic to horses," he said sardonically. More precisely, to hay dust more potent in the spring and fall.

Even so, he never stopped observing movements in the barn, in the racing office, on the track. Summer at Monmouth Park. Spring and winter in Maryland. Fall at Delaware. "I was especially hangin' around the starting gate, watchin' them, learning, looking to see what they were doing," Coley said.

Raised in the Baltimore suburbs, he said he rode occasionally but without polish for his polio-wrought asymmetry. "My balance was never that great," he said. "I could get along with them on the ground and everything, but on their back . . . Yeah, I could get from point A to point B, but don't make it look pretty."

Whatever the undertaking, he never feared trying. At Calvert Hall, he went out for football in the fall and lacrosse in the spring, "and every year I'd end up on crutches before I could start the season." Coaching daughter Alix's softball team proved a wiser play.

In the days post-retirement, at home with wife Cynthia in Monkton, Md., he retooled a generator he might need this winter. Plumbing? Not a problem. He replaced his mom's garbage disposal, then brother Frank's. He installed a fluorescent light in his own garage to enable projects day or night.

Coley Blind patches drywall too, but deems hanging sheetrock a contractor's job. With age comes wisdom. Every man needs to know his limits. *

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ALL Horseman

Show ring or racetrack, Jenkins finds success with Thoroughbreds

By Katie Bo Williams

Rodney Jenkins just likes Thoroughbreds—that's all there is to it. It's all famous lore now: The Red Rider. Five American Gold Cup wins. Three grand prix wins at the National Horse Show and four in the Washington International President's Cup. Inducted into the Show Jumping and the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame—all without ever having a formal riding lesson.

And that was before he became a successful trainer on the racetrack. Now, at 76 years old, he's still going strong as a trainer based from a barn at Laurel Park full of quality horses from Hillwood Stable and other regional leaders.

But it's his fidelity to the breed that truly defines Jenkins. It's difficult to imagine today, so dominant are the warmbloods and sport horses in the show ring, but the horse with which he is best remembered over show fences, Idle Dice, was an Oklahoma-bred Thoroughbred. Jenkins says he rode a few nice warmblood horses, but he always preferred Thoroughbreds, in the ring or out of it.

Why? This, as it turns out, is the right question to ask Jenkins, sitting in his office at Laurel. It's an office in the style of the old Virginia horsemen—the ones who did a little bit of everything. Racehorses. Show jumpers. Fox hunting. Some steeplechasing. There are paintings of fox hunting scenes by Jenkins' wife, Unjin, and photos of horses in the show ring hung up next to

the standard racetrack win photos. As an exceptionally assertive gray cat demands attention from visitors, Jenkins unspools some answers.

"If you ride one of them—it's like riding in a truck and a car," Jenkins said. "They got their ways, but so do all horses. But you get a pretty Thoroughbred horse, you got something."

For one thing, they're smart. "A Thoroughbred horse, you can teach them something in a day. That's the way they are," he said. And in the show ring, they're just faster than everything else: "The Thoroughbreds I showed were naturally faster trotting than warmbloods are galloping. So I didn't have to run everywhere." Perhaps Jenkins is thinking of Idle Dice, on whom he would shock out-of-town riders by trotting to a 4-foot-6 fence in the warm-up ring.

For another, the Thoroughbred requires just that little touch of finesse, that whisper of delicate craftsmanship. "The Thoroughbred is very sensitive, they're

sitting on edge all the time," he said. "But if you want to be a sensitive rider, that's what you want."

Orange, Virginia

Jenkins came by his love of the Thoroughbred naturally. He was born in 1944 in Orange, Va., where his father, Ennis Jenkins, was a huntsman at the Rapidan Hunt. Ennis had Thoroughbreds and when Rodney was 10, bought a farm known as Hilltop. Old-timers remember post-and-rail jumps laid out on a hillside on Route 15 that the Jenkins family would use to school.

"Since I was a kid, that's all we had. That's all he ever hunted is a Thoroughbred," Jenkins said. "That's where I got it from."

Ennis was a legend in his own right in fox hunting circles, known for the power of his voice and his love of hounds. He taught his three sons to ride and to jump on a small gray mare, Jenkins' brother Larry, now a field master at Keswick Hunt Club near Orange, recalled.

Ennis had another mare that "could jump anything you pointed her at," he wrote in an essay collected in a 2017 oral history of fox hunters. "My brother Rodney was always trying to find a horse that could outjump her. He was always very competitive, even out hunting. He and my brother Dale loved to jump, the higher the better."



JERRY DZIERWINSKI

The three brothers followed their father, teaching young horses to jump and riding hard to hounds, usually alongside another local legend remembered for his art and skill in the show ring (and prepping young racehorses) in Virginia, their friend Noel Twyman.

"We set up little X's and cavalettis and after a week or so they started fumbling around and started picking it up," Rodney Jenkins said. "We didn't know any better—our dad told us go jump that and we did it. If he told us to go jump one in the pond, we'd try to get him down there. My father was a good horseman."

It was a little wild and woolly at times, both Jenkins brothers recalled. As children, Rodney, Dale, Larry and Twyman would "take a long time shutting the gates so we could race each other catching up with the rest of the field," Larry Jenkins wrote.

But hunting didn't catch Rodney. "He'd go gallop and jump but he wasn't that interested in the hounds," Larry recalled. Rodney wanted to ride show horses, building courses for himself out of branches and logs he found in the woods out back at Hilltop and schooling improvised courses. In those days, Orange was one of the centers of gravity for the show world in Virginia—giving Jenkins the opportunity to ride nice horses, watch other talented riders and to try to emulate them. The result was a style all his own, unconventional, but light on a horse and effective. Years later, Olympian Conrad Holmfeld said Jenkins was "the most natural talent I have ever seen." The boy from Orange graduated high school in 1961 and began his career as a professional rider.

Finding Idle Dice, and the Olympics

When Jenkins was starting riding up and down the East Coast, the hunters were the main attraction at horse shows. The jumpers were a different world, seen by some as a backwater for horses that couldn't make it in the polished hunter ring.

Jenkins rode hunters throughout his career and to this day, he insists that to ride a successful jumper course a rider must also be able to ride a hunter course. But as the jumpers gained popularity, Jenkins found his niche. He won his first major international prize in the Washington International Horse show in 1970, winning the President's Cup with a stunning 5-second margin. (He would go on to win the President's Cup four times with three horses.)

He continued to work with and learn from Ennis, building his business out of Hilltop and riding for storied Virginia owners like Peggy Steinman and Theodora Ayer Randolph. By the 1970s, supported by owners like Patrick Butler and Harry Gill, Jenkins had become one of the winningest riders in history. The best-remembered of his horses was, of course, a Thoroughbred.

Idle Dice was foaled in Oklahoma in 1963, by an unremembered sire named Hay Hook. He didn't make much of a racehorse, and by 1968, he was hilltopping in Pennsylvania. Bernie Traurig, now a member of the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame, bought the horse because of his jumping ability, and began showing him in First Year Green classes—and begging Jenkins to ride him. Rodney liked the horse so much he bought him for Gill for \$12,000, then an enormous sum of money.

The rest is history. Idle Dice won 31 grand prix titles and became the first horse inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. In 1972 alone, he won four Puissance classes—judged solely on how high the horse can jump—including a 7-foot-2-and-3/4-inch victory at the Washington International. Known for his high head carriage—Jenkins once tried to put a standing martingale on him, and the horse wouldn't jump—and an utter refusal to rub a fence, Idle Dice could win grand prix, speed and Puissance events all at the same competition. The huge bay horse and the rider with the shock of copper red hair and the ever-present tobacco pipe became the stuff of lore. Jenkins was still in his 20s.

But there was one hurdle he couldn't jump. Jenkins had traveled to Hickstead, England, with Idle Dice for the 1974 World Championships, finishing eighth. But as a lifelong professional, he was denied the opportunity to ride in either the Olympics or the Pan American Games, which then only permitted amateurs to ride.

In 1987, the International Equestrian Federation softened its rules. Jenkins applied for and received permission to ride as an amateur in international events, provided he wore no insignia or advertising on his kit. He immediately joined the U.S. team for the Pan American Games and at 43 years old, he won the individual and team silver medals. It was to be the best year of his career as a rider.

"You were automatically a pro if you made your living showing horses, and God knows, when you put your all into something you do well, you want to make a living off it if you can," he told *The New York Times* that year. "So I was a pro from the time I was a teenager, and I could ride

in anything but those two events, but those were the ones I dreamed about.

"There I was, I'd won everything there was to do with my profession, but I kind of felt like I'd been slighted because I couldn't serve my country doing what I was best at."

Later, he would say that those two silver medals were worth more to him than all the prize money he had ever earned riding as a professional.

New game, same rules

When Jenkins retired from showing in the late 1980s, he didn't want to teach, but he stuck with the Thoroughbred. He tried his hand at steeplechasing at first and eventually turned to the flat track, where there were more frequent races. He shrugs at the notion that there was a learning curve to his new discipline—a world deeply balkanized from the show ring, culturally and technically.

"I think all horses have been a learning curve. You train the horse, and let the horse train you how he wants to be trained—whether it was a jumper or a racehorse. There's no difference," Jenkins said. "The ones that want to do it show it to you real quick."

There are some differences in picking out a racehorse, said Jenkins, regularly among the top buyers at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sales alongside Ellen Charles of Hillwood Stable. Together, they've purchased and campaigned regional stars Phlash Phelps, Cordmaker, Shimmering Aspen and Bandbox among others. Now a stallion in Maryland, Bandbox has provided Hillwood with a few homebreds including the stakes-placed Bunting.

Some of the better racehorses Jenkins has had have been "lean, a little long in the back"—a quality he didn't like in show horses. "But these seem to cover the ground, don't have to make as many steps." Asked what he looks for now, Jenkins said: pedigree, gaskin muscles, the hind end, and bone. "But I don't like 'em too robust, too clunky for me."

Valued Notion, a then 3-year-old maiden in the first stall next to the office, fits that bill. The horse started twice at Laurel in July, had a couple of bullet works under his belt, then missed some time. Jenkins bought him as a yearling at Timonium for \$120,000 for Hillwood and remembers him as "dainty and light on his feet" as a yearling. "He's all together a different looking horse now," Jenkins said. "Big, scruffy-looking sucker."

But he can run, Jenkins said. "I've worked him with horses that I have started



Rodney Jenkins and Idle Dice compete at the Washington International Horse Show in the early 1970s.

and they don't want no part of him. Either I got some really sorry ones or he's OK."

Sticking to the script, Jenkins gave Valued Notion a break to grow some more but the dark bay gelding was back in the worktab late in 2020.

One of his most promising horses from 2019, Scaramucci, has been retired. The \$220,000 Hillwood purchase injured his eye over the winter, had a few lackluster starts and is embarking on a second career as an event horse in the barn of one of Jenkins' exercise riders.

Jenkins has the highest earner of his career in Cordmaker. The now 6-year-old son of Curlin pushed his earnings to \$501,140 despite losing seven in a row in 2020. The losses included seconds in the Deputed Testimony and Richard W. Small at Laurel and a third in the Pimlico Special-G3 at Pimlico. The chestnut gelding won four stakes over the previous two seasons, and was third while beaten two necks in the 2019 Pimlico Special.

According to assistant trainer, Eveline Kjelstrup, Jenkins wasn't a fan when the

horse showed up at Laurel. The \$150,000 yearling was sent back to the farm to do some growing. When he came back, the story had changed.

"That's a really nice horse," Jenkins told Kjelstrup about the Maryland-bred.

"You hated that horse," she replied.

"I don't hate him no more."

The horse hadn't actually changed a whole lot physically. "He still looks like a deranged giraffe," Kjelstrup said with a laugh, "so he's still not Rodney's type, but you know, he can run."

And so it goes. If there's one universal philosophy, one secret to horsemanship you can ascribe to Jenkins, it's his conviction that you have to give horses time—especially Thoroughbreds.

"Mrs. Charles and Rodney always both have the horse first in their mind," said Kjelstrup, with Jenkins since his show-ring days. "Both of them are very willing to give a horse all the time it needs, or retire a horse when it's still in one piece."

Blame the pandemic, a limited racing schedule or just circumstance, but Jenkins

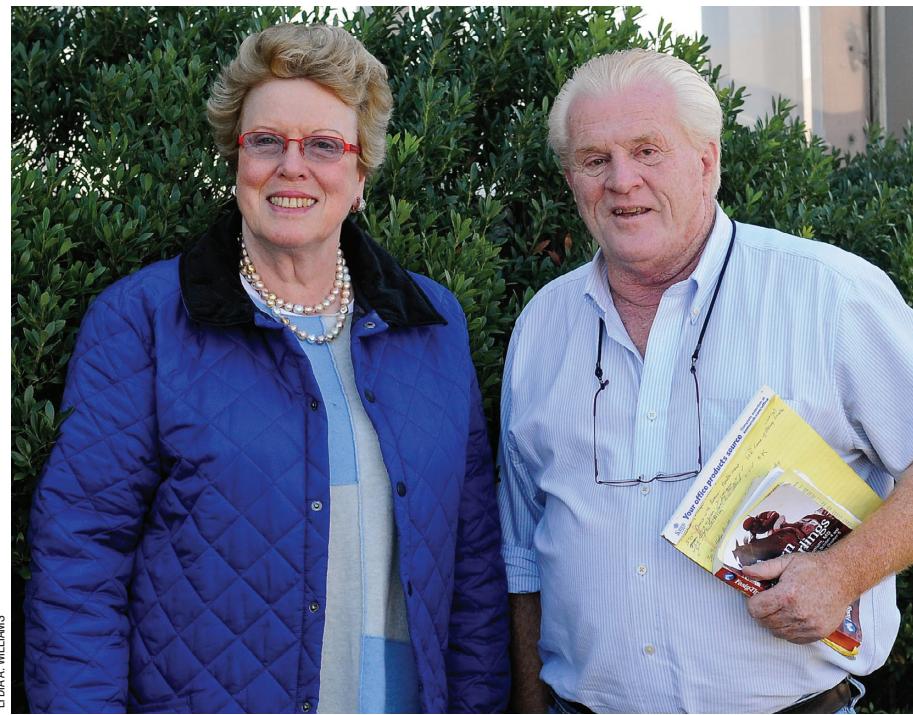
endured a difficult 2020 in terms of statistics—winning three races from just 48 starts through Dec. 6. Both were his lowest since 1997, and a long way from his 200-start, 70-win power shedrows of the 2000s.

But, like racing, Jenkins endures and looks to the future. One of the sport's ongoing debates has centered on if the breed is becoming more fragile, because of the evolution of different medications or because they are being bred for the 2-year-old sales instead of the racetrack, or . . . name your villain.

There's nothing wrong with the breed, Jenkins said. The problem is the accelerated program modern racing requires of young horses. "From the time they're yearlings, they're broke—their bones aren't up to that," he said.

"I do it, so I'm guilty of the same thing because this business keeps going," he said, matter-of-factly. "But I really think when you start pounding on horses at that age, the longevity of racing life is shorter."

In other words, it's just time.



LINDA A. WILLIAMS

Rodney Jenkins and main owner Ellen Charles have been fixtures at regional sales. Below, at the track, assistant Eveline Kjelstrup is Jenkins' right hand.



JERRY DZIERNOWSKI

And in the show ring? Michael Matz, another champion show-ring rider who turned to the racetrack when he hung up his irons, said riders in 2020 could still be as successful as Jenkins with Thoroughbreds, if only they were willing to take the time to make them.

But like most people who try to talk about Jenkins' horsemanship, Matz struggled to put a finger on just what makes Jenkins' great.

"He's a good horseman," Matz said. "They usually end up that they're OK no matter what they want to do. If he wants to do jumpers, train racehorses, ride cutting horses—he'll figure out a way to do it."

Jenkins, perhaps unsurprisingly, gives the credit to the horse.

"My opinion is, the horse makes us. We don't make the horse. I don't think it matters what this person does, what that person does. I let the horse tell me what to do from day to day. That's the only thing I do that they don't," he said. "Thoroughbred horses have been good to me."



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Final Stretch

Veteran announcer Jones readies for farewell after 34 years at Parx

BY TOM LAW. PHOTOGRAPHS BY EQUI-PHOTO, INC.



Hawaiian Gem and her teenage jockey Chris Antley dashed through the illuminated air the evening of June 24, 1985, leading a field of maidens around Garden State Park's first turn. Upstairs in a glass booth atop the grandstand, Keith Jones felt something he'd never felt before.

Jones wasn't awed by the *Hawaii filly's turn of foot, or much else about the five other fillies and mares spread out nearly 9 lengths front to back through the half and vying for the \$12,500 purse of the 1-mile maiden race that night.

"I'll never forget the first race I called at Garden State," Jones said in December. "It was six horses going a mile. They started right in front of me. Nighttime racing is different. The lighting, regardless of how bright the lights might seem to you, casts shadows. It's a whole different game than when you're calling in the daylight. So here I am, I really have no idea what I'm doing."

Jones, cast in the role of announcer that night after impressing his supervisors enough with his makeshift calls done on the rooftop and into a tape recorder, tried to stay focused as Hawaiian Gem led to the backstretch, just ahead of Port Lavaca, Stolen Arts and Blue Bella.

"Halfway up the backstretch my hands started to shake," Jones said. "If the horses hadn't spread out I don't know how I would have gotten through it. Not only did my hands start to shake, but I had never experienced having my legs start to shake. I was that nervous. But I got them around the track and the horse that won was named Blue Bella. For some reason I guess I'll always remember that."

Jones' career was just beginning, first at Garden State after earning the trust and support of Bob Quigley and Bob Bork and later at Philadelphia Park/Parx Racing. The stay in Philadelphia spanned five decades, from 1987 through the end of 2020, and when Jones hung up his binoculars he was the second-longest tenured announcer in North America behind only Richard Grunder at Tampa Bay Downs. Jones' retirement announcement came a few months after Delaware Park's John Curran finished his run after 37 years.

Jones called more than 60,000 races, including 32 editions of the Pennsylvania Derby-G1.

"It's kind of hard to wrap my head around the fact that I've been there since 1987. It's 34 years," Jones said. "For the most part it's been year-round racing, too. There are a lot of guys that have seasonal tracks, call for a couple months and get a break. I never really had much of a luxury of having much of a break."

Jones earned his shot during the early part of his career in racing, which followed studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jones worked on the team that ran the infield matrix board and a few times a night his co-workers would cover his spot so he could head up to the roof to practice.

Eventually his boss got wind of that and asked to listen to the tapes.

"We kept it secret, then my boss heard about it and made me play the tapes from that night in his office," Jones said. "There might have been a dozen people in there. I was embarrassed because they weren't very good at that point. But he took the tape recorder and went around the corner to the presidents' office, Bob Quigley. He left for a few minutes, came back and said, 'We want you to keep practicing.'"

After more practice Jones earned his debut and then a race a night for a few more weeks until the end of the Thoroughbred meeting. He eventually graduated to assistant announcer behind Ralph Siraco, starting at the subsequent Standardbred meeting and after previous assistant Vic Stauffer moved on to call at Detroit Race Course.

"Ever since I was a little kid I always wanted to be an announcer," Jones said.

"I thought it would be baseball or football or hockey, something like that. The two guys I worked with encouraged me, 'Why don't you see if you can do it.' Never in a million years as a kid would I have thought with my wanting to be an announcer that it would be horse racing. I'd always wanted to be an announcer and somehow I ended up being an announcer."

Among the thousands of races and tens of thousands of horses he's called over the years, Jones points to Philly legend Smarty Jones and specifically his victory in the 2003 Nursery Stakes as one of the top performances he's seen from his spot atop the grandstand. Jones also ranks 2016 Cotillion Stakes-G1 winner and eventual champion Songbird and 2014 Kentucky Derby-G1 and Preakness Stakes-G1 winner California Chrome, who finished sixth in that year's Pennsylvania Derby-G2, as notable horses he's had the honor to call.

Jones said he'll miss the horses and horsemen, along with the executive team at Parx Racing, when he and his wife Kelly relocate to Texas for retirement. Joe Wilson, chief operating officer at Parx, has worked with Jones for more than 30 years and said the longtime voice of the track would be missed.

"The voice of Keith Jones more than any single entity is synonymous with Parx Racing," Wilson said. "He has always called the races with a dignity and professionalism worthy of the sport. It's hard to imagine

someone else calling the Pennsylvania Derby or the Cotillion or even a Tuesday afternoon claiming race."

Jones also handled public relations for Parx and race-day live reports for TVG in recent years and hopes to continue those roles in some capacity and remotely into 2021. He was due to meet with track management about that possibility into December, all while contemplating what life in retirement and away from racing directly will be like next year.

"At this point I have no idea which way I'm going to go," Jones said a few weeks ahead of his final race call, scheduled for Parx's 2020 finale Dec. 30. "Part of me is like, 'OK, just be the professional you've been for 34 years and do what you're supposed to do.' Or do I just get on the mic, thank everybody and everything, don't worry about the horses going around the track. I'll probably lean more toward doing it the right way. We'll see what comes when that last day gets here."

"I can't imagine it's not going to feel strange. It hit me not too long ago, I walk down this long hallway to get out of work and it's like, 'OK, in the not too distant future, I'm going to walk down this hallway for the last time.' That felt kind of strange, too. It's been a long time. I've been going there, doing that walk and been in that office for many years, many days and many hours. It will be an adjustment but my wife and I are really looking forward to what we're doing."

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November stakes results around the region

Charles Town



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11/28 Eleanor Casey Memorial (\$50K). 7 F. Reg. WV-Bred 2YO F.

Winner: **SHUTUPN'KISSME** (b.f., Fiber Sonde—Kiss On Command, by Langfuhr). B/O/T-John D. McKee (W.Va.). J-Wesley Ho. Time: 1:28.57. Margin: 1 $\frac{3}{4}$. 2nd: **Theladyistrue**. 3rd: **Juba Train**.



11/28 Concern (\$100K). 7 F. 3YO.

Winner: **AIR TOKEN** (dk.b./br.g., Golden Lad—Saint Dinorah, by St Averil). B-Carol Ann Kaye (Md.). O-Corrales Racing LLC. T-Jose Corrales. J-Horacio Karamanos. Time: 1:22.29. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Francatelli**. 3rd: **Golden Candy**.

Laurel Park

11/14 James F. Lewis III (\$100K). 6 F. 2YO.

Winner: **NO CENTS** (b.c., Goldencents—Faker, by Petionville). B/O-Hope Jones and Isabelle de Tomaso (N.J.). T-Cathal A. Lynch. J-Trevor McCarthy. Time: 1:09.16. Margin: 1 $\frac{1}{4}$. 2nd: **Dalton**. 3rd: **Lugamo**.



11/28 Frank Y. Whiteley (\$100K). 6 F. 3&up.

Winner: **WHEREHETOLDMETOGO** (ch.g., 5, El Padrino—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute). B-David H. Wade (Md.). O-Madaket Stables LLC, Ten Strike Racing, Michael E. Kisber and Black Cloud Racing Stable LLC. T-Brittany Russell. J-Sheldon Russell. Time: 1:08.59. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Laki**. 3rd: **Bybee**.



JIM MCCUE (6)

11/14 Smart Halo (\$100K). 6 F. 2YO F.

Winner: **STREET LUTE** (ch.f., Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute). B-Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman (Md.). O-Lucky 7 Stables. T-John J. Robb. J-Xavier Perez. Time: 1:09.85. Margin: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$. 2nd: **Out of Sorts**. 3rd: **Be Sneaky**.

11/28 Primonetta (\$100K). 6 F. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **DONTLETSWEETFOOLYA** (b.f., 3, Stay Thirsty—Stunning Electra, by Catienus). B-BHMFR LLC (Ky.). O-Five Hellions Farm. T-Lacey Gaudet. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:09.79. Margin: 5 $\frac{1}{4}$. 2nd: **Never Enough Time**. 3rd: **Needs Supervision**.

11/28 Richard W. Small (\$100K). 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi. 3&up.

Winner: **HARPERS FIRST RIDE** (dk.b./br.g., 4, Paynter—Polyester, by Tiz Wonderful). B-Sagamore Farm (Md.). O-MCA Racing Stable LLC. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Angel Cruz. Time: 1:41.92. Margin: 3. 2nd: **Cordmaker**. 3rd: **Name Changer**.



JIM MCCUE

11/28 Safely Kept (\$100K). 7 F. 3YO F.

Winner: **HELLO BEAUTIFUL** (dk.b./br.f., Golden Lad—Hello Now, by Tiznow). B-Hillwood Stables (Md.). O-Madaket Stables LLC, Albert Frassetto, Mark Parkinson, K-Mac Stables and Magic City Stables LLC. T-Brittany Russell. J-Sheldon Russell. Time: 1:22.26. Margin: 3. 2nd: **Reagan's Edge**. 3rd: **Landing Zone**.

11/28 Thirty Eight Go Go (\$100K). 1 1/16 mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **ERES TU** (b.f., 4, Malibu Moon—It's True Love, by Yes It's True). B/O-Edward A. Seltzer and Beverly S. Anderson (Ky.). T-Arnaud Delacour. J-Trevor McCarthy. Time: 1:42.62. Margin: 1 1/2. 2nd: **Lucky Stride**. 3rd: **On the Town**.

Penn National

11/6 Shamrock Rose (\$80K). 6 F. Reg. PA-Bred 2YO F.

Winner: **PLANE DRUNK** (dk.b./br.f., Stay Thirsty—Annette's Jet, by Golden Missile). B/O-Triple Threat Stables (Pa.). T-Phil Schoenthal. J-Edwin Gonzalez. Time: 1:10.62. Margin: 3 1/4. 2nd: **My Beautiful Belle**. 3rd: **Aegean Sea**.

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All Together Now

Through adversity, jump community somehow made 2020 season happen

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOD MARKS

Wow. What a year.

All sports, all of life, faced dismay and disruption in 2020. American steeplechasing, a model based predominantly on sponsorship and on-site attendance, faced an impossible storm in 2020. With the coronavirus pandemic raging, the entire spring season was canceled. The Middleburg Spring Races and the Virginia Gold Cup moved to June, somehow cobbling 21 races without owners or spectators. Saratoga and Colonial Downs offered lifelines in the summer, the former providing nine lucrative races and the latter offering six races before being shut down entirely because of a Covid-19 outbreak in the flat jockey colony. By fall, the jumpers were back in limited capacity at seven meets without any hurdle stakes and with minimal purses.

Understandably, it's an ugly spreadsheet. A purse structure of \$5.8 million in 2019 dropped to \$1.6 million in 2020. Individual races dropped from 167 to 80 and the host venues slipped from 30 to 11. Participation from owners, trainers, jockeys and horses decreased as well.

National Steeplechase Association president Al Griffin Jr. co-chaired two of the salvaged race meets, Virginia Gold Cup and International Gold Cup, in 2020 and manned the ship that faced rough seas like never before. Sure, the numbers declined and the sport struggled on all levels (from race meets to horsemen) but there was a time when hosting 80 races and \$1.6 million looked impossible.

"When adversity after adversity kept getting piled on, everybody started focusing in the same direction. If there was a silver lining, more and more of the different parts of our sport became interested singularly in making things work," Griffin said. "That was a constantly evolving effort because from one week to the next, we had chang-

ing conditions, not just racing issues, but the ability to run."

The National Steeplechase Association worked closely with the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association on how to audible because of restrictions and limitations. That working relationship was solidified. The Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation, American jump racing's national charitable arm, supported the sport. Outside steeplechasing, the Virginia Equine Alliance, the New York Racing Association and other organizations provided support when it was desperately needed. When purse money was in peril, individual supporters wrote checks. In a year when all hands and all masks were needed, it happened.

"Having any racing was possible because people focused entirely on getting as many racing opportunities on the ground as possible," Griffin said. "If you look at the Covid impact, we maximized the opportunities given the severe restrictions of the pandemic. That was a team effort."

As for 2021, NSA's Bill Gallo has tentatively designed a traditional schedule with 16 spring race meets and 12 in the fall. Obviously, it all depends on the pandemic. Steeplechasing will react accordingly.

"We are approaching with cautious optimism," Griffin said. "We'll have significant limitations at the beginning of the spring and hopefully by the end of the spring, we'll be in a position to have almost full or full capacity at our race meets."

The sport will continue to bolster its commitment to live streaming and hopes to raise that as a viable marketing tool while trying to meet the new mindset of the spectator who comes to the races.

"We lived in a scenario where we thought our spectators would never go away," Griffin said. "The NSA needs to rethink its business model and I think each

individual race meet will do the same. If you want something to last forever, you have to continuously change it."

■ For jockeys and trainers, maidens win championships. For owners, it's stakes horses. Strictly and simply, stakes horses. No owner had better stakes horses in 2020 than Bruton Street-US. Marylanders Charlie Fenwick Jr., Mike Hankin and Charlie Noell won six races in 2020. All stakes. All the stakes. Yeah, that's right, Bruton Street-US won each hurdle stakes race on the diminished and disrupted 2020 season to provide the bulk of the group's \$253,950 in total earnings over jumps. The figure led the NSA owners' standings, a feat Bruton Street also turned in 2017 and 2019.

Moscato (GB) began the run with a dominant win in the Temple Gwathmey, his second consecutive triumph in the Middleburg stakes, in June. Trained by Jack Fisher and ridden by Michael Mitchell, the gray gelding settled well off the pace before turning the switch. It was over fast as he drew off to win by 11 lengths. Bruton Street's Rashaan (Ire) finished third in the historic \$50,000 stakes.

Two weeks later, Bruton Street's Snap Decision, also trained by Fisher, stepped out of the novice division to take the David Semmes Memorial at the Virginia Gold Cup. Ridden by Sean McDermott, the Kentucky-bred son of Hard Spun rallied from last to score by 4½ lengths.

At Saratoga, Snap Decision came back to sweep both novice stakes, dominating the Jonathan Kiser and the Michael G. Walsh to finish his season at a cool 3-for-3 and push his win streak to seven.

Also at Saratoga, Moscato pulled the A. P. Smithwick out of the fire, responding to Mitchell's whip switching in the stretch to nail Optimus Prime (Fr) late in the Grade 1 stakes.

Facing Moscato for the second time, Rashaan upset the New York Turf Writers Cup for Leslie Young and Tom Garner. Purchased privately last summer, the now 9-year-old finished off the board in two stakes last fall but improved drastically to knock off Redicean (GB) and Moscato in the final Grade 1 of the season.

For the season, Moscato led all horses with a 2-for-3 record and \$100,000 earned. Snap Decision placed second with \$87,000 from three wins in three starts. Rashaan finished third with a win and a third and \$65,000. One of the three will surely win the Eclipse Award in January, joining Scorpianer (Ire) on the Bruton Street roll of honor.

Bruton Street-US horses won six races from 16 starts and led six-time champion

Irv Naylor by nearly \$100,000 at season's end. Hudson River Farms, Riverdee Stable and Gill Johnston completed the top five.

Bruton Street eclipsed the \$2 million in career earnings in 2020, sliding past icons Jonathan Sheppard, Ann Stern, Lillian Phipps, John Griggs and Timber Bay Farm to climb to 11th on the all-time list of leading owners. Not bad for a 2014 launch.

■ Mystic Strike won his second consecutive Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, slogging 4 miles in deep ground to knock off timber champion Curve of Stones in November.

The son of Smart Strike won his final start on the flat, a \$5,000 claimer at Charles Town for Gumpster Stable and Kieron Magee, in 2014. The 11-year-old has won six races over timber for Keystone Thoroughbreds and trainer Todd McKenna.

■ Jack Fisher (a 13-time champion) was upended from his spot atop the leaderboard for the first time since 2011. The Marylander trained the season's top two earners in Moscato and Snap Decision, however neither ran beyond August. Fisher retired two-time timber champion Doc Cebu (who won the Virginia Gold Cup

in June) after a fall injury. Earnings leader Moscato will miss a year after bowing a tendon at Saratoga.

Super novice Snap Decision is "moving up" to the open division for good and taking his seven-race winning streak with him. He could make his first 2021 start in the Temple Gwathmey at Middleburg. Major Irish import Footpad (Fr) missed all of 2020 after Covid wiped out suitable races for the Arkle winner. The earner of \$925,389 should return for the spring.

■ Leslie Young produced a strong showing in 2020, winning six races from 46 starters to place third behind Sheppard and Fisher in wins and earnings. Young won the Middleburg Hunt Cup with 2019 timber champion Andi'amu (Fr) and finished 1-2 in the New York Turf Writers Cup with Rashaan and Redicean.

■ Veteran Bernie Dalton bounced back from a winless 2019 season, conducting four wins from 42 rides to crack the top 10. The Camden, S.C.-based jockey won the season finale on house horse, Mr. Sarinana, at Charleston, edging ever closer to his 100th career winner. Dalton and his wife, Kate, said goodbye to their stable star,

Belisarius (Ire), who retired at the end of the season.

■ Apprentice jockey Parker Hendriks cracked the top 10 in earnings, winning two races from 13 rides. The son of trainers Ricky Hendriks and Sanna Neilson doubled at the International Gold Cup. Older brother McLane led all apprentices with three wins, all for his father and grandmother, Wendy Hendriks, on the timber circuit.

■ Trainer Todd Wyatt engineered four wins from just 16 starts to tie for fourth in the standings. The Maryland-based conditioner unveiled Maryland-bred Flash Jackson over timber and promising hurdle winner Douglas Road.

■ Former amateur riding star Mark Beecher concentrated on training in 2020, winning four races to tie Wyatt and Neil Morris for fourth. Beecher, who retired after capturing the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup on Mystic Strike in 2019, won three races with Straylight Racing's steeplechase scion Invocation (Fr).

■ In reaction to the uncertainty of Covid, the Carolina Cup moved its spring date from March 27 to May 22. ■

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Rock Solid

Timber veteran Curve of Stones rocks through busy fall season to clinch title

BY IV HENDRIX

Three weeks. Three timber stakes. One horse.

"That's 12 miles and 60 fences," said owner Patrick Shepherd.

Not quite, but close.

Rebecca and Patrick Shepherd's Curve of Stones topped the National Steeplechase Association's 2020 timber standings following a fall season of two wins, one second, 10½ miles and 57 fences over the span of 22 days.

Trained by David Bourke and ridden by Barry John Foley, Curve of Stones edged Mystic Strike by a neck to take the National Sporting Library and Museum Cup going

3½ miles at the Virginia Fall Races in Middleburg, Va., Oct. 10.

Two weeks later, Curve of Stones rolled down the stretch to win the 3½-mile International Gold Cup in The Plains, Va., stalking the field for most of the race and taking the lead just before the penultimate fence while winning by 7 lengths over Super Saturday. Eight days later, the Virginia-bred gelding finished second to Mystic Strike in the 4-mile Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in Unionville, Pa.

Bourke admitted that his plan was ambitious for the 9-year-old: to enter three timber stakes inside of a month. Com-

bined, Curve of Stones ran three times the distance of a Triple Crown contender in two weeks fewer. The well-being of the horse, Bourke insists, is always the most important factor in any decision he makes and was the primary decider this time too.

"The Monday after the Gold Cup, I took Stony to [U.S. Olympic show-jumping team veterinarian] Tim Ober to check him out before we made the decision to go ahead and run in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup," Bourke said. "After two hours of flexing and jogging back and forth, Dr. Ober told me 'David, if you're looking for an excuse not to run him next week, I can't give it to you.'"

Curve of Stones ran most of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup like he had his previous two races: cruising at the back of the field before moving forward in the final half-mile. Jumping as well in the muck as he had in firm and favorable conditions, Curve of Stones drew even but couldn't sustain it as Mystic Strike—who bypassed the International Gold Cup—scored by 8 lengths in a repeat of his 2019 Hunt Cup win.

The defeat in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup deluge didn't dampen Curve of Stones' connections' belief in their horse. The



Curve of Stones stalked the field for the better part of the trip, before winning the 2020 International Gold Cup by 7 lengths.

TOD MANS

\$4,500 second-place check also pushed the son of Arch to \$34,500 on the year—tops among timber horses—to secure the championship by \$900.

“There are a lot of special things about this horse, but the two that stand out, what makes him a superior athlete, he doesn’t run on Lasix and he goes the same no matter what the condition of the ground is,” Bourke said.

“We also have to give a lot of credit to our rider. Barry John and Stony speak the same language,” Rebecca Shepherd said. “He’s a horse that likes to be supported and he rates well; Barry John gives him just what he needs.”

From the ashes

Curve of Stones is an anomaly in the Shepherds’ string of horses: their other runners are all homebreds. Rebecca Shepherd breeds one or two mares a year and foals them herself at her Run Aweigh Stable in Culpeper, Va.

For Rebecca Shepherd, Curve of Stones is the second act in her mission to own a winning chaser. The first was a homebred named Searubyrun, who passed away unexpectedly at age 6 in the prime of a career as a hurdler.

“He was a big, beautiful, gray horse, I delivered him with my own two hands,” she recalled.

Determined to help her overcome the loss, Bourke and Patrick Shepherd worked for the next year to find Rebecca a steeplechase prospect. The only stipulations were that he had to be attractive and gray.

“I call Stony my Phoenix,” Rebecca Shepherd said, “because he rose from the ashes of a horse I loved very much.”

Bourke found Curve of Stones in the summer of 2015 when the horse was running in a \$20,000 claimer on the turf at Monmouth Park. The trainer studied his pedigree, conformation and watched videos of him gallop. Patrick Shepherd agreed, Curve of Stones fit the bill.

On July 4, Bourke and Patrick Shepherd hitched up the trailer and set out for New Jersey to claim their horse. They had to roll the dice for Curve of Stones—literally—because someone else had put a claim in for the horse. Fortunately, they won. Originally trained by steeplechase legend Jonathan Sheppard, Curve of Stones had passed around the claiming ranks, running and winning for Marcus Vitali on the day Bourke claimed him.

Douglas Lees



Barry John Foley gives Curve of Stones a grateful hug, with trainer David Bourke at his head, and owners Rebecca and Patrick Shepherd and the rest of the Bourke family in the International Gold Cup winner's circle.

“We almost didn’t make it to the secretary’s office, there’s a time limit to drop a claim before the start and I couldn’t get David out from behind the horse. He wanted to make sure he liked how the horse walked in the paddock,” Patrick Shepherd laughed.

Bred by Audley Farm, Curve of Stones sold for \$160,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2012 and made his debut the next year for Sheppard and Lake Lonely Racing. The gelding won twice at Presque Isle Downs as a 3-year-old, and was claimed for \$30,000 at Gulfstream Park in 2015. Curve of Stones made four starts (winning twice) for trainer Jamie Ness that year and was claimed by Vitali at Monmouth in June. Bourke dropped his slip in the horse’s next start.

The following spring, Curve of Stones won his first start over hurdles at the Virginia Gold Cup and came right back to win an allowance race at Radnor. He entered his first timber race in May 2019 and notched his first timber win that fall. Bourke said he made the switch from hurdles to timber because he felt that Curve of Stones excels over greater distance, and his horse backed up the opinion while joining the rare ranks of winners on the flat, over hurdles and over timber. Through 2020, he’d won 10 of 46 lifetime starts and earned \$222,950.

A family affair

Between races, Curve of Stones lives at Bourke’s Somerset, Va., base. A few miles down a dirt road in the heart of Keswick Hunt country, Bourke’s operation is simple: horses relax, graze, and get to be horses. When it’s time for Curve of Stones or Bourke’s other trainees to get fit, they do their sets on the five-eighths of a mile

grass gallop, do flatwork and jump school in a field beside the barn, and hack out on the miles of trails that abut the property. It’s a low-pressure environment, but the pricked ears and soft eyes on the heads looking out the windows of the shed row suggest the program works.

Curve of Stones is a quirky horse, Bourke says, and is happiest when kept busy.

“He gets bored easily,” Bourke said of the son of Arch. “We try to change things up to keep him interested. One day he’ll gallop on the track, the next he might hack out with my son, and then I might take him hunting later that week.”

Bourke Racing is a family affair. Bourke’s teenage son Liam is the stable’s main work rider, and his daughter, Annie, and wife, Renee, are also involved. For Bourke, training horses is a passion and a way to connect with his family.

“Training horses is fun, but it’s not what pays my mortgage,” he joked.

The Irish native moved to the United States as a professional jump jockey, but an injury that sidelined him for a season in the early 1990s forced him to consider another career. He learned to shoe horses and is now one of Central Virginia’s most sought-after farriers.

Looking ahead, Bourke and the Shepherds are starting to make plans for next season. But in the meantime, Curve of Stones will enjoy a well-deserved winter off at his owners’ farm.

Bourke named the Virginia Gold Cup as the primary goal for spring 2021, and didn’t rule out a pass at the Maryland Hunt Cup in the future.

“We’re going to do next season just like this season, only better,” Rebecca Shepherd said with a grin.

G Force

Transplanted Irishman Galligan wins his first jockey championship

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOD MARKS

Lethal Force (Ire) set a track record. Adam Kirby had a double and eight days of whip bans. South African superstar Shea Shea (SAf) disappointed. And America had a future champion.

The July Cup at Newmarket 2013.

While Lethal Force and Kirby starred, Gerard Galligan changed his life. The Irish-born, British-toiling Galligan, 22 at the time, took a rare weekend off from the National Hunt circuit to enjoy a day's racing at Britain's iconic track. Why not? He wasn't riding much. When he did, it was crash diet for a no hoper at a gaff track, a riding fee at best. The bookmaker's son bumped into bloodstock agent, Matt Coleman, who suggested riding jump races in America.

"Do they even have jump racing in America?" Galligan asked.

It's been a well-worn path since this country's homegrown steeplechase talent got old and salvation-seeking Europeans got on board. David Bentley changed the game, winning two titles in 2002-03. Yanks Matt McCarron, Jody Petty and Danielle Hodsdon flew the flag until 2006. No American-born jockey has won a National Steeplechase Association jockey title since.

Galligan added his name to the P1 visa roll of honor this year, winning 14 races, to top last year's co-champion Michael Mitchell by three wins in a disrupted, pandemic-shortened season. Riding the revitalized Jonathan Sheppard train from station to station, Galligan won three on the first card of the season and four on the last card of the season. Arch Kingsley provided a win at Middleburg, the rest were supplied by the Hall of Famer who won his 26th title in his star-spangled career.

For Galligan, it all comes back to the that day in Newmarket in the summer

2013. Well, that night in De Niro's, the Newmarket night club, when Coleman wrote his email address on a napkin.

"It was the best weekend I ever took because I got chit-chatting with Matt, he asked if I had ever considered going to America to ride," Galligan said. "It's just luck the way things happen, everything happens for a reason."

By that fall, Galligan had landed in the barn apartment at Doug Fout's stable in The Plains, Va. Facing a shortage of jockeys and double meets, Fout asked Galligan if he wanted to stay and ride a few in October.

"I couldn't believe I could get a ride in America," Galligan said.

Claiming five pounds, Galligan borrowed tack, picked up a win, a second and a third and a broken collarbone on an outside ride. He was hooked.

"I went home and got my visa," Galligan said. "I was delighted, there was good racing here and I was riding a good quality of horse compared to England."

Raised in Dublin, Galligan fell for horse racing but it was all about the action, as he hustled home from school to watch the races at his father's bookmaker shop in Dublin. With some money saved, the family moved to County Kildare. Galligan hounded his father to take him to the local riding stable, father relented and son was hooked. He wrote a letter to local legendary Irish trainer Arthur Moore, asking for a job while still in grade school.

"He let me come in and ride horses for free and muck stalls for free," Galligan said. "I thought it was the best thing in the world."

The hook sunk deeper, eventually wedging university out of the equation. Galligan enrolled in the jockey course at the Racing

Academy and Centre of Education, a program that has graduated everybody from champion flat jockey Johnny Murtagh to champion jump jockey Brian Hughes.

"My dad was disappointed," Galligan said. "He said you had to be a Carberry or a Walsh to get an opportunity. I went against their word."

Galligan apprenticed under another Irish legend, Dermot Weld, for 10 months. Struggling with his weight, he was winless in six rides on the flat in Ireland and moved to England, where he won three on the jump circuit but that's about all.

"The lads in Ireland grow up in the country, riding pony races, I grew up in a housing estate," Galligan said. "I was a bit of a slow learner."

By 2013, he had learned that he needed a new place to dwell, venturing to America on a lark, hoping to ride out for some trainers, see the world. After 1-for-5 stint and with the backing of Fout, Galligan rejoined Fout's stable, winning three races, including the Marcellus Frost Stakes with Pleasant Woodman, from 41 rides in 2014. The next year Galligan won five from 43, while moving from Virginia to Pennsylvania halfway through the season.

"I was happy to scrape away," Galligan said. "Get a few rides, have an odd couple of winners every year."

In October, 2015, Galligan got a few rides on an unlikely—and an eventual game-changer. Powerofone had finished one race in his previous seven starts. It's bad when a horse's form spells words rather than lists numbers. Powerofone's line read: PU-PU-PU-PU-10-F-LR.

The son of A.P. Indy had been pulled up by two champions, finished last with another, fallen with another and unshipped yet another. That's when Sheppard called Galligan, sometimes the hungry are better than the fed. The apprentice climbed on just like he did at Moore's and picked up a second and a sixth to close that season. It was a foot—well, a toe—in Sheppard's door.

"Nobody wanted to ride him," Galligan said. "I was riding horses who would run through wings, green maidens, just horses he needed to get around a race, but it got me on better quality horses. I kept working hard and trying to improve my riding."

Galligan and Powerofone won a four-horse race at Tryon in May 2016, one of his nine winners for the season. He slipped to two in 2017, six in 2018 and added



another six in 2019 while always training a small string of horses on his own.

In November, Galligan the trainer retired his best horse, seven-time flat winner *It's a Trend*, and made a decision, storing his webbings and concentrated on his riding.

Bingo.

"This is the first year I wasn't training horses," Galligan said. "I would get up and muck out my own horses and then ride out all day afterward, I was working all day, until the sun went down. This year, I could either take a little break and concentrate on being a jockey or get back into it. I was doing all the things a jockey should be doing. I was hoping it would pay off."

Riding and mucking all day switched to galloping and schooling for different trainers, working out every day, running a few days a week and riding his Equicizer every day. Winners flowed.

Hot Springs, *Zoom Zoom Zoe* (Ire) and *Hyperlapse* (Ire) reeled off a natural hat trick at Middleburg in June. Veteran *Go Get the Basil* notched one at the Virginia Gold Cup two weeks later. Imported maidens *A Silent Player* (Ire), *Baltimore Bucko* (GB) and *French Light* (Fr) scored at Colonial Downs. Sixteen days later, *French Light* won easily at Saratoga. And then a skid. Galligan lost 19 races in a row, all the way to the penultimate meet of the season Nov. 7 at Callaway Gardens

where he won on *Baltimore Bucko* and *A Silent Player* to loom one behind Mitchell, blanked on the card.

Galligan put it to rest with a day for the ages. The jockey and Sheppard swept the first four races with *High Sierra*, *Penitence*, *Bet the Pot* and *Zoom Zoom Zoe*.

"It was something else. I can't believe it happened," Galligan said of the grand slam. "After the first, the confidence went up and it just seemed like I couldn't do anything wrong, that had never happened before. It's such a feeling when things are going right and you can't do anything wrong. I still can't believe it happened."

A July Cup to a November championship. ■

A half-century of titles

Hall of Famer Sheppard garners 26th steeplechase training crown

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOD MARKS

The year was 1970. Richard Nixon led the White House. The Beatles broke up. A stamp cost six cents. Apollo 13 aborted its mission. Robin's Bug was crowned Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. The Colonial Cup, with its \$100,000 purse, became the richest jump race in history. And Jonathan Sheppard edged Ronnie Houghton by one win for champion steeplechase trainer.

The National Steeplechase and Hunt Association's Jack Cooper knew it was the beginning of something big, writing about the achievement in the 23rd edition of *Steeplechasing in America*.

Jonathan Sheppard, the English-born horseman only in his fifth year as a trainer, headed the list of winning trainers with twenty-one victories to his credit. His charges were active at the major ovals and at the hunt meetings and accumulated \$156,920 in purse monies to rank the West Grove, Pa., conditioner second only to D.M. Smithwick in that classification.

In a sense, England's loss was America's gain. Had it not been for the fact that Sheppard's Father is a leading handicapper under the National Hunt Rules, Sheppard could well have been a licensed trainer in his native land. However, following his migration to this Country some years ago and the marriage to "Penny" Lofting, a Unionville girl, it would seem quite likely that "Johnny" is here to stay.

Of serious mien, but with a disarmingly engaging smile, the young horseman brings to his vocation, a wealth of experience with horses, figuratively from swipe to stable manager and race rider. It has often been said, however, that a successful trainer has to know a lot more than conditioning his stock. Among other attributes, Sheppard seems to know when and where to send a horse postward.

Cooper went on to write about Sheppard's undefeated 3-year-old Insklinger, major track stalwarts *Wustenchef, Lost Lamb, *Profile, Lough and the "sometimes

aching jumper" Haffaday who won twice over timber that season.

Sheppard had arrived in 1970. And, 50 years later, he's still at the top, winning his 26th training title in 2020. The 80-year-old scoffed about setting goals in 1970 and 2020.

"The only goal I've had really is to do the best I can with what I've got, not specifically to be leading trainer every year or set records. It just seems to materialize on its own," Sheppard said. "Take it day by day, do the best you can and at the end of the year, you look and say, 'That's good, leading trainer.' I don't set out at the beginning of the year with a driving passion to beat everybody into the ground. You can only do the best you can with what you've got. I'm fortunate that what I've got is better than what a lot of other people have got. You can't do it without the stock."

Long since inducted into Thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame, Sheppard continued to chisel new lines on his indelible plaque, sending out 20 winners, eight more than perennial leader Jack Fisher. With a barn full of young horses, Sheppard took advantage of a pandemic-shortened and purse-infringed season, winning nine maiden races and zero stakes while Fisher won four maiden races and six stakes.

With Covid-19 shutting down the world, Sheppard took a step back from his usual approach and stayed in Florida for most of the year. From there, he ran his stable like an air-traffic controller, knowing the flight patterns, while his 29-year-old assistant, Keri Brion, spun the propeller from the ground.

"Nice and quiet, just the way I like it," Sheppard said in December. "I put more and more responsibility on Keri, I was a little less hands-on myself, we talk every day. I'm basically training them, calling the shots and she's the one there, hands on,

day by day. I'm offering my input from a bit more of a distance."

A bit more distance has never been Sheppard's thing. He's been known to have three rental cars at three airports, be at Presque Isle Downs Monday night and Saratoga Tuesday morning, driving himself as hard as his horses and his help. In a year of change, all that changed in 2020.

"It was quite relaxing, I didn't really mind it. Anything scary crops up, I'm always available to run out to the farm, speak to the vet, and come to a decision," Sheppard said. "They know the everyday routine, it's the same thing I've been doing, the same thing Keri's been doing for 10 years, we have a program set in place."

Without a superstar, the program was prolific in 2020, cobbling together winners with everything from Sheppard home-breds to Irish imports.

Sheppard unleashed 13 horses on the delayed opening day at Middleburg in June, winning with Irish imports Zoom Zoom Zoe (Ire) and Galway Kid (Ire) and off-season acquisition Hyperlapse (Ire). Two weeks after Middleburg, veteran Go Get the Basil won a handicap hurdle at Virginia Gold Cup. Baltimore Bucko (GB), A Silent Player (Ire) and French Light (Fr), purchased from the Irish point-to-point circuit by Brion over the winter, broke their maidens at Colonial Downs in August.

Iranistan returned to form to win twice at Saratoga. French Light came back to win an allowance race at Saratoga. Inverness banged out a handicap hurdle at Foxfield in September. Another Try picked up a 4-year-old maiden win through disqualification at Virginia Fall. Galway Kid and Anticipating won at International Gold Cup. A Silent Player and Baltimore Bucko won again at Callaway Gardens.

With the title clinched, Sheppard, Brion and champion jockey Gerard Galligan put on a guitar-solo encore at the circuit's final stop, Charleston—sweeping the first four races with High Sierra, Penitence, Bet the Pot and Zoom Zoom Zoe.

"Unbelievable. There aren't really words are there? When the first two won, I was just like, 'Is this for real?'" Brion said. "They all had chances, but those would have been the ones you weren't banking on. The next two were the two we really like. When the first two won, it was like, 'Oh, my God.' Jonathan got some real kick out of it. He called me after the second and



said, 'Is the next one going to win, too? You couldn't script it."

Brion began her Sheppard odyssey after transferring from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to West Chester University. A freelance rider while in school, Brion eventually took over as assistant for a block of stalls, then a barn and now the whole operation.

"I've been really running all of it for maybe three years, this is the first year Jonathan took a big step back. He knows I haven't changed anything, it's still his program," Brion said. "I talk to him basically every day. We don't go into training as much as we once did, but he's enjoying it. I say this to people and they say no way, but I think he's content where he's at, I'd call him semi-retired."

As for next year, Sheppard dismissed any talk of retiring while content with easing off the throttle.

"I'm spending a little more time in Florida," Sheppard said. "I'm not going to give up and retire but I'm not driven to get every single horse I can get my hands on and drive it into the ground perhaps like I would when I was younger."

Whatever works.

NOTES: Sheppard has won titles in six decades—the 1970s, '80s, '90s, 2000s, 2010s and now 2020. He clinched that first crown, breaking a tie with Houghton,

when Inkslinger won the 3-year-old hurdle stakes at the Colonial Cup on the season's final day . . . As usual for Sheppard, the barn was fueled by a variety of owners including Buttonwood Farm, Hudson River Farms, Irv Naylor and others including Sheppard himself with his usual squad of homebreds.

Next stop, Ireland

With his 26th champion trainer title in the books, Sheppard continued to shovel coal on the furnace, sending six horses to Ireland for a winter foray.

"It's something we haven't done before, it's a quiet time of year, not much going on around here and a bit of entertainment for the owners, a bit of an experiment, we'll see how it goes," Sheppard said. "I don't have unusually high expectations by any means, they're sort of middle-of-the-road type horses, it'll be interesting to see how they fit over there."

Brion and jockey Gerard Galligan flew to Ireland soon after winning four of the five races at the Steeplechase at Charleston to finish a stellar American season. Horses and people converged at James and Mary Doyle's Baltimore Stables in County Wexford.

It's an eclectic group of horses.

The now 7-year-old Winston C (Ire) leads the squad and was ultimately the

catalyst. He won two Grade 1 stakes to earn championship honors in 2019 but hasn't run over jumps since finishing fourth in the Lonesome Glory in September 2019. Owned by Ed Swyer's Hudson River Farms, he knocked off some rust in a training flat race at Pennsylvania Hunt Cup Nov. 1 and was pointing for a race at Punchestown Dec. 31. Jack Doyle will ride, replacing the injured Tom Garner. Beyond Winston C, the brigade includes British-bred Baltimore Bucko (2-for-4 for the year), Irish-bred Fancy Pance (pulled up in his only start in 2019), French-bred French Light (2-for-5 in 2020), French-bred Francois (unraced since fetching 210,000 euros at Arqana in 2018) and Irish-bred Clondaw Camp (1-for-1 in 2019).

"Winston C had a minor setback this spring, he was about two works short for the Turf Writers and Ed was like, 'What about taking him overseas?' We thought about it some more, he's run all right on heavy ground, he doesn't need Lasix," Brion said. "Ed started it and our other owners didn't want to get left out. We are taking different types, they're not all stakes horses. We think a lot of Clondaw Camp and French Light is one of our best horses."

Galligan won't let them get too far away.

"Hopefully, we can put American steeplechasing on the map a little bit," Galligan said.

Adele Paxson

Some clients are a pain in the ass. Some clients know nothing about horses in general and Thoroughbreds specifically. Some clients think they invented the horse and some clients think they invented auctions. As a particular client once told me, "I was selling used cars at auction when you were still sucking your thumb." Some clients are a dream come true and Adele Paxson was one of those.

Mrs. Henry D. Paxson as she was known was the widow of Henry Douglas Paxson, a founding partner of a large, white-shoe Philadelphia law firm. I met Mrs. Paxson through a recommendation from Josh Taylor who, at the time, was working for Fasig-Tipton in their Midlantic division. Josh asked me if I would drive up to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to meet with her and discuss becoming her agent. When we arrived, we entered a house and met a woman right out of *The Philadelphia Story*.

Mrs. Paxson was approaching 80 and had been a horsewoman all her life. She started riding at age 6; foxhunted aside and astride for more than 60 years; showed horses at the premier horse shows in North America; and, with her husband Doug, had been the master of the Huntingdon Valley Hunt. Along with their equine activities, Mr. and Mrs. Paxson were devotees of the opera. They founded the Bucks County Opera and she was chairperson of both the Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Her beautiful farm consisted of several hundred acres of prime Bucks County real estate; what could only be called a manor house; and several classic stone barns and stables. She had been racing Thoroughbreds her entire adult life. In 1978 her 2-year-old filly, Candy Eclair (Northern Jove—Candy's Best, by Candy Spots), won the Eclipse Award winner as champion 2-year-old filly. At 2, Candy Eclair won all five of her starts including the Grade 1 Selima Stakes. At 3 she won the Ashland-G2 and earned \$403,845 in her career. In 1980, Mrs. Paxson won the Eclipse Award as Breeder of the Year.

The situation at her Elm Grove Stable was that she hated to part with any of

her homebreds and her horses were all homebreds. When we met, she had accumulated 60 mares and several stallions she kept mating with her mares. She really felt that she needed to cut back, and gave me an inventory of all of her mares and told me that she'd like to get down to 35.

I went home and worked over the list. Frankly, there were probably 45 mares that had little value and little prospect for success in the stud. I came up with my list of 25 to sell and went back up to Elm Grove to announce my reduction plan. I was met with a wall of recalcitrance. She really didn't want to sell any of them. She produced a large loose-leaf binder in which she had recorded everything known about each horse: pedigree, race record with details about each start, habits (good and bad), workout times for every published work, breeding records, foaling habits and her impressions of each foal. She had compiled a staggering amount of information about every horse she had ever owned and kept it updated weekly.

As we went through my list of suggested sale candidates, she found, among her records, a reason not to sell each and every mare. We struggled mightily and came up with a list of 12. As I was leaving, she mentioned that she had forgotten to give me a list of the fillies she would be retiring from racing that year. There were 10. After all that work, we would reduce the broodmare band by two.

I told her, as I told all of my clients, these were her horses and I was only there to help her achieve her goals. We sold the 12 and added the 10 and went on with the program.

Elm Grove did have some quality mares. Mrs. Paxson had been an original shareholder in Halo and had retained her interest when he moved from Maryland to Kentucky. She owned a share in Halo's son Devil's Bag as well as Northern Jove. She kept 10 mares in Kentucky with Smiser West and bred them to those stallions and others that she and Dr. West thought were up and coming sires. The rest of the mares were bred to home stallions. The home stallions at the time I met Mrs. Paxson were Foretake (1976, *Forli—Take Warning, by Traffic Judge) and Loustrous Bid (1982, Illustrious—Heavenly

Ade, by Cannonade). Foretake had won the Knickerbocker and Longfellow handicaps (both Grade 3) and earned \$265,369 by winning 10 of his 43 starts for trainer Mary Edens. Loustrous Bid was an unraced son of Mrs. Paxson's Delaware Handicap-G1 winner Heavenly Ade.

Heavenly Ade set a track record in winning the Del Cap in 2:00 and was also the dam of Dancing Heroine (by Hero's Honor), who produced Pennsylvania Derby-G3 winner Devil's Honor for Walter Reese.

Under the management of Pete Oas, an old-school horseman from West Chester, Elm Grove raised the yearlings on the Pennsylvania farm. In the autumn, they went to Aiken for breaking and training with Sally Cluff. The horses were then sent to trainers Edens, Allen King, David Donk and Michael Dickinson. Michael called me one day and offered to give us one of Mrs. Paxson's 2-year-olds who wasn't handling the rigors of training. Named Bid to Fore, he was by Foretake out of a Loustrous Bid mare. Called "Freebie" at our house, he hunted, showed and babysat; he is still thriving at age 29.

Over the years, I always looked forward to my several visits to meet with Mrs. Paxson. As we whittled away at her broodmare band and she started to sell some yearlings every year she arrived at a manageable number of about 20 mares and their offspring. In the late '90s, as she approached age 87, her health deteriorated and she decided she should disperse all of her horses. In the October and December Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales, Dixie and I sold 20 mares, 15 weanlings, 17 yearlings, and one 2-year-old. The gross price was \$987,000. Mrs. Paxson died three weeks after her last horse was sold. Elm Grove was put into a conservation easement and remains a place of beauty today.

Along with Bid to Fore, Dixie and I received a last gift from Mrs. Paxson in the person of Liz Eglington Mitchell. Liz worked at Elm Grove from the summer of 1992 until the dispersal. She then spent two years as a foreman for Michael Matz before coming to work at Charlton. A complete horsewoman who had shown as a junior, worked with mares, foals and yearlings at Elm Grove, and learned about racehorses from another master, Liz was a welcome addition to our team and eventually served as our farm manager for the several years before we retired.

Taylor Mountain Stallions 2021

Candygram

STAKES-PLACED SON OF CANDY RIDE (ARG)

Three-time New York allowance winner of \$188,210. Broke his maiden at Belmont Park going 1½ miles, won an Aqueduct allowance race by 5½ lengths going 1½ miles and came right back to win by another 5½ lengths at Belmont going 1 mile (110 Equibase Speed Figure). Then came right back to place second in Belmont's \$100,000 State Dinner S (109 Equibase Speed Figure).

Out of a stakes-winning half-sister to the dam of G2

MR. MISUNDERSTOOD (\$967,176), from the immediate family of G2 MIDDLESEX DRIVE (\$746,819).



Candy Ride (Arg)—Church Camp, Forest Camp
\$1,500 LFSN; special consideration

Denis of Cork

STAKES-SIRING SON OF HARLAN'S HOLIDAY

TWELVE stakes horses in first five crops include **B'S WILD CORK** (\$255,202), **ROMANTIC CORK** (\$242,776), **RETURN TO DENIS** (\$216,308), **SCOTTISH DENIS** (\$205,681), **I NEED YOU** (\$175,546), **SPRING LASS**, etc.

A G3 winner of \$613,252, twice classic-placed with a second in G1 Belmont S and a third in G1 Kentucky Derby. From the family of classic winner **DA' TARA**, G1 **PRIVATE PERSUASION**, etc.



Harlan's Holiday—Unbridled Girl, by Unbridled
\$750 LFSN

Juba

SON OF TAPIT FROM A SIRE FAMILY

Sire of FOUR stakes horses in his first crop of 2YO's:

HOPPING HENRY, **Juba Train**, **Just Gets Better** and **Juba Did It**. New York allowance-winning son of leading sire **TAPIT**, sire of leading sires **TAPIZAR**, **CONSTITUTION**, **TONALIST**, **TAPITURE**, etc.

Half-brother to G2 winner **SAINT ANDDAN** (\$423,170).

Stakes-placed dam a half-sister to track record-setter and top WV sire **LUFTIKUS**, **DIVERSA**, **SENSITIVITY**, and sister to **Rare Opportunity** (multiple graded stakes producer). Third dam multiple G1 winner and multiple stakes producer **SABIN**.



Tapit—Adoradancer, by Danzig Connection
\$1,500 LFSN; special consideration

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STAKES WINNERS



MICHAEL BURNS PHOTOGRAPHY

Field Pass recorded his third graded win of the year in the Grade 3 Ontario Derby at Woodbine.

Complete up-to-date statistics on this year's Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners can be found at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigree, race record, produce record of dam, and much more.

Maryland-bred

AIR TOKEN, dk.b./br.g., 2017, by Golden Lad—Saint Dinorah, by St Averil. Bred by Carol Ann Kaye; owned by Corrales Racing LLC; trained by Jose Corrales. \$100,000 **Concern S**, 7 fur., 3-year-olds, Laurel, Nov. 28; 2nd **Maryland Million Turf Starter H**.

FIELD PASS, gr./ro.c., 2017, by Lemon Drop Kid—Only Me, by Runaway Groom. Bred by Mark Brown Grier; owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Michael J. Maker. \$100,000 **Dania Beach S**, 1 mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Gulfstream, Feb. 1; \$200,000 **Jeff Ruby S-G3**, 1½ mi., synthetic, 3-year-olds, Turfway, March 14; \$100,000 **Audubon S**, 1½ mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Churchill, June 20; \$100,000 **Transylvania S-G3**, 1½ mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Keeneland, July 12; \$125,000 **Ontario Derby-G3**, 1½ mi., 3-year-olds, Woodbine, Nov. 21; 3rd **American Turf S-G2**, **Twilight Derby-G2**, War Chant S.

FIYA, dk.b./br.g., 2017, by Friesan Fire—Sista, by Two Punch. Bred by Ann W. Merryman; owned by Robert Masiello; trained by Thomas Albertrani. \$75,000 **Maryland Million Turf Sprint H**, 5½ fur., turf, 3 & up, sired by eligible Md. stallions, Laurel, Oct. 24; \$90,000 **Claiming Crown Canterbury S**, 5 fur., turf, 3 & up who had started for a claiming price of \$25,000 or less in 2019-20, Gulfstream, Dec. 5.

HARPERS FIRST RIDE, dk.b./br.g., 2016, by Paynter—Polyester, by Tiz Wonderful. Bred by Sagamore Farm; owned by MCA Racing Stable LLC; trained by Claudio A. Gonzalez. \$100,000 **Deputed Testimony S**, 1½ mi., 3 & up, Laurel, Sept. 5; \$250,000 **Pimlico Special-G3**, 1½ mi., 3 & up, Pimlico, Oct. 2; \$100,000 **Richard W. Small S**, 1½ mi., 3 & up, Laurel, Nov. 28; 2nd **Maryland Million Classic S**.

HELLO BEAUTIFUL, dk.b./br.f., 2017, by Golden Lad—Hello Now, by Tiznow. Bred by Hillwood Stables; owned by Madaket Stables LLC, Albert Frassetto, Mark Parkinson, K-Mac Stables and Magic City Stables LLC; trained by Brittany Russell. \$100,000 **Maryland Million Distaff H**, 7 fur., fillies and mares, 3 & up, sired by eligible Md. stallions, Laurel, Oct. 24; \$100,000 **Safely Kept S**, 7 fur., 3-year-old fillies, Laurel, Nov. 28.

JAXON TRAVELER, dk.b./br.c., 2018, by Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and Marvin Delfiner; trained by Steven M. Asmussen. \$100,000 **Maryland Juvenile Futurity**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 2-year-olds, Laurel, Dec. 5.

STREET LUTE, ch.f., 2018, by Street Magician—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke

Bowman; owned by Lucky 7 Stables; trained by John J. Robb. \$100,000 **Small Wonder S**, 5½ fur., Del.-bred or certified, 2-year-old fillies, Delaware, Sept. 26; \$100,000 **Smart Halo S**, 6 fur., 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Nov. 14; \$100,000 **Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship S**, 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired 2-year-old fillies, Laurel, Dec. 5; 2nd **Maryland Million Lassie S**.

WHERESHETOLDMETOGO, ch.g., 2015, by El Padrino—Undisputed Legend, by Domestic Dispute. Bred by David H. Wade; owned by Madaket Stables LLC, Ten Strike Racing, Michael E. Kisber and Black Cloud Stable LLC; trained by Brittany Russell. \$100,000 **Frank Y. Whiteley S**, 6 fur., 3 & up, Laurel, Nov. 28; 2nd **New Castle S**; 3rd **Iowa Sprint S**.

New Jersey-bred

NO CENTS, b.c., 2018, by Goldencents—Faker, by Petionville. Bred and owned by Hope Jones and Isabelle de Tomaso; trained by Cathal A. Lynch. \$100,000 **James F. Lewis III S**, 6 fur., 2-year-olds, Laurel, Nov. 14.

Pennsylvania-bred

JAKARTA, b.m., 2015, by Bustin Stones—T J's Stormy Wit, by Stormello. Bred by Arrowwood Farm Inc.; owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Michael J. Maker. \$75,000 **Powder Break S**, 1 mi. (off turf), fillies and mares, 3 & up, Gulfstream, May 16; \$90,000 **Claiming Crown Distaff Dash S**, 5 fur., turf, fillies and mares, 3 & up who had started for a claiming price of \$25,000 or less in 2019-20, Gulfstream, Dec. 5; 2nd **Caress S**; 3rd **Buffalo Trace Franklin County S-G3**.

West Virginia-bred

SHUTUPN'KISSME, b.f., 2018, by Fiber Sonde—Kiss On Command, by Langfuhr. Bred, owned and trained by John D. McKee. \$50,000 **Eleanor Casey Memorial S**, 7 fur., registered accredited W.Va.-bred 2-year-old fillies, Charles Town, Nov. 28; 2nd **W.Va. Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic S**, Rachel's Turn S.

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Worth the Wait

Maryland-bred Galerio provides a highlight for small breeder Marconi

Story and photographs by Sara Gordon

As Galerio crossed the wire ahead of Tattooed in the sixth race at Laurel Park Nov. 21, winning for the eighth time in 2020, the Maryland-bred shot to the top of the national leaderboard for victories. The now 5-year-old was still there in mid-December, tied with three others as the calendar clicked down to its final days.

Though the gelding had been claimed away from his breeder more than a year ago, Daniel Marconi couldn't have been prouder. The success was another nod to the dream he'd developed as a child: to breed and own racehorses.

The 66-year-old grew up in the Rockville area and developed a love of horses by attending races all over the country with his father Galeorio John Marconi, an avid handicapper. Being there to witness Dr. Fager, Buckpasser, Damascus and Secretariat among other greats, coupled with his dad's ambition to one day own a racehorse, fueled Marconi's passion for the sport and his love of horses.

"There were five of us, four brothers and one sister, and we all liked horses," said Marconi. "[Dad] would drive us out to Gaithersburg, which was nothing but country back then, and he would point out



Daniel Marconi takes a moment with broodmare Congaree Princess, dam of eight-time winner Galerio.

some horses that he was going to get us and we would fight over the color and all that, I mean that's how it got as kids."

But after spending his teenage years taking riding lessons and mucking stalls at Wheaton Regional Park, Marconi pushed his dreams of

owning a horse aside to earn a degree in accounting and business management leadership from the University of Maryland, work his way up to the level of district manager for Giant Food, meet his wife Star and start a family.

Marconi and Star, along with sons Daniel and Derek,

relocated to their small farm in Mt. Airy in 1992.

"We kept on saying we wanted a larger piece of land so we could keep a couple horses, so we moved here, put up a barn, put up fencing and bought ponies for the kids," said Marconi. "It was the best Christmas we ever had, probably because I always wanted a pony when I was a kid and that never happened."

And then, as Marconi said, "along came Brice Ridgely."

Ridgely and his wife Mary Anne, who lived behind the Marconi family, quickly became close friends as they bonded over their passion for horses. And Ridgely, ever the opportunist, continuously tried his hand at pulling Marconi into Thoroughbred ownership.

"Brice was a deal maker," Marconi said. "His big thing was farming, but he was in cows, he was in horses, he was in everything, so he would buy a couple horses and try [to] make a deal and one day he brought home two yearlings: One Sock and Cookie."

Ridgely called one day with a simple, "Hey, come up here and see what I've got."

Marconi arrived pretty quickly.

"He knew he had a fish on the line, so he reeled me right in," Marconi said. "Best \$1,000 I ever spent when I bought One Sock."

The Thoroughbred/Quarter Horse, entirely chestnut except for his one white sock, became Marconi's hunter/jumper and eventually his foxhunting partner as a member of the Howard County Iron-Bridge Hounds.

Ridgely sold Marconi a couple more riding horses, then switched gears and decided it was time to go racing.

"It was always Brice, putting me over the edge. Again, he knew it wouldn't take much to [turn] my words into action, so he brought home two mares," said Marconi. "I can't remember both of the mares. He actually tried to sell me Sea Karma, but we tacked her up, put a girth on her and

she almost split both of us up. She probably hadn't been girthed up in forever, and she was a broodmare, but Brice thought maybe she'd be a good riding horse for me.

"He was always trying, saying 'You can have her for \$1,000, you can start breeding some racehorses,' but I didn't bite onto it then."

Ridgely kept Virginia-bred Sea Karma, an unraced daughter of El Gran Capitan (Arg) who had already produced four foals, and bred her to Clever Champ. The mating produced a filly, born May 5, 1995.

A couple years later, with Sea Karma's 2-year-old filly Clever Rache in the barn, Ridgely had found another horse to offer Marconi: a Maryland-bred yearling filly by Norquestor out of the Somethingfabulous mare Fabulous Vee.

Ridgely's sales pitch, "You can have her, all you have to do is give me \$1,500 and trailer her out."

Marconi talked it over with his wife. "Star, you want to do that?"

"No, we probably shouldn't do that."

Marconi would get "grounded," but was "chomping at the bit" to get into racing.

Clever Rache, trained by John Tammaro III, won her second start at Pimlico in 1998, but ended her career three starts later. This time, Marconi jumped.

"I bought Clever Rache from Brice for \$2,000," he said. "She showed enough in two or three races that she looked pretty good and I liked part of her bloodlines—Icecapade was in her bloodlines."

Just before Clever Rache retired, the filly Marconi had passed on was making her first few starts after failing to meet her reserve as a weanling and a yearling in the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale. Her name was Vee Vee Star, and Ridgely kept her to race with Tammaro.

Running only as a 3-year-old, she won her fourth start

before going on to win an allowance and notching back-to-back thirds in the Caesar's Wish Stakes and Grade 2 Black-Eyed Susan. Vee Vee Star made three more starts before Ridgely retired her to become a broodmare.

Clever Rache and Vee Vee Star produced their first foals in 2001, as Marconi's mare had a colt by Deposit Ticket and Ridgely's mare foaled a filly by Partner's Hero. When it came time to breed them back, a new stallion caught Ridgely's eye.

"Brice kind of stumbled over a freshman sire at Country Life Farm, standing for \$2,500 at the time, and that horse was Malibu Moon," said Marconi. "So we took both of the mares to Malibu Moon."

Vee Vee Star produced a colt, Declan's Moon, who sold as a yearling for \$125,000 to Jay Em Ess Stable at the 2003 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale. Ridgely tried to convince Marconi to do the same with Clever Rache's Malibu Moon filly, named Starleena after the breeder's wife, but Marconi stayed the owner until Country Life made a private offer.

"That's still a sore spot. Up until that point, I didn't know how to sell a racehorse, I didn't know what the heck was going on, [but] Country Life wanted to buy her from me, so I sold her," said Marconi. "But I wasn't selling her to Country Life, not at all, I was actually selling her to B. Wayne Hughes, the owner of Spendthrift [Farm].

"What I learned from Brice early on, when he's playing baseball, [is that] the foul line in the first inning is different from the foul line in the ninth inning, it's always moving. And everyone needs to make some money. So I kind of think that's what happened with Starleena."

The two Maryland-breds broke their maidens on debut just six days apart at Del Mar in July 2004.

"During the workouts, Starleena was just burning up the track, she was a nice filly," said Marconi. "We were sit-

ting here watching it on TVG and damn if she doesn't win by 2 lengths. It just broke our hearts."

"I know my neighbors thought we were killing each other, I mean I screamed so loud," added Star.

Starleena finished seventh in the Sorrento Stakes-G3 in her second start, ending her 2-year-old year, and made just three more starts for Hughes before she was claimed away for \$50,000 by Naveed Chowhan and trainer Bernie Flint. Starleena finished fourth in the 2005 Safely Kept Breeders' Cup Stakes-G3 and second in the 2005 Squan Song Stakes before retiring the following year with a record of 5-1-0 from 17 career starts, earning \$132,474. She later changed hands six times in the Keeneland auction ring, the last to Korean interests in 2012.

Declan's Moon moved right up to graded stakes company as he scored consecutive wins in the Del Mar Futurity-G2, Hollywood Prevue-G3 and Hollywood Futurity-G1 to win the Eclipse Award as champion 2-year-old male of 2004. The gelding made 14 more starts over the next four years, winning the 2005 Santa Catalina-G2 and finishing third in the 2006 Vernon O. Underwood-G3, before retiring in 2008 with a record of 6-2-2 from 18 starts and \$705,647 in earnings.

By 2006, Malibu Moon had been moved to Kentucky and his stud fee was \$20,000, but Marconi managed to work out a deal and bred Clever Rache back to him. That December, she sold in foal to Malibu Moon for \$50,000 to Cindy Tucker (agent for Maggie Bryant) as the second-highest priced broodmare of the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic mixed sale.

"As we were walking out, [Daniel] grabs my hand and says, 'I think we just made the biggest mistake of our lives in this business,'" said Star.

The Malibu Moon colt of 2007, bred in Maryland by Bryant and named Rachels Moon, sold for \$160,000 as a weanling and \$285,000 as

a yearling but lost all eight starts.

When Marconi says he got out of the Thoroughbred business after selling Clever Rache, he should add an asterisk to that statement. Though he was out in the sense of owning/breeding, his heart and mind kept playing right along.

"I'd be up at 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock in the morning nicking mares and everything. I like certain mares, [especially] with City Zip, Dixieland Band, In Reality, Icecapade, Relaunch, Fappiano, Raise a Native [in their bloodlines]—I mean I could go on and on," said Marconi. "I'd be up at all sorts of times doing this, especially on weekends, and I always go to dreamhorse.com, it's silly."

By January 2013, he was reeled back in after stumbling across the listing for a free mare named Congaree Princess, at Mountaineer Park.

The 5-year-old Maryland-bred daughter of Congaree and Bill Backer's homebred mare Royal Reception made her first 13 starts for Backer before being claimed away for \$7,500. Congaree Princess had made 31 starts between 2010-12, retiring with a record of 3-4-4 and earnings of \$75,259.

As Marconi did more research, he found Fappiano three generations back on her dam's side and immediately started nicking her to a variety of stallions. Eventually he came to Jump Start, who matched up perfectly with Congaree Princess.

Feeling the stars had aligned, Marconi pulled the trigger.

"So I email this lady—I still have the bill of sale, 'free'—and she says you can have her, all you have to do is pay the transportation fee."

A few hundred dollars later, Marconi owned a broodmare prospect.

"It was January, and it was cold and snowy when we walked her out [of the trailer]. It must have been 8 o'clock, 9 o'clock at night, it was late," said Marconi. "I put her away, she's a pretty big mare, and it



Congaree Princess flashes her stride in the paddock.

seemed like she was OK. Then the next morning, she's lame as hell. So it keeps going back to that foul line."

Damascus Equine Associates' Dr. Peter Radue X-rayed her right front ankle, which revealed a fractured sesamoid. The prognosis left Marconi with two options: euthanasia or 120 days stall rest, with an uncertain outcome after that.

Not ready to give up, Marconi and his sons slowly but surely brought the mare through her stall rest to recover soundly. And in 2015, the plans Marconi had made came full circle as he bred his mare to Jump Start.

Sent to Northview to foal out under the watchful eye of broodmare manager Doris Hogarth, Congaree Princess produced her first foal on May 20, 2016. Marconi named the bay colt after his father Galerio, a World War II veteran, who passed away in 2015.

"I told my dad before he died and the day he died, I don't know if he really understood what I was saying, but I told his wife that I was going to name a horse after him: Galerio," said Marconi. "I thought it was a really strong name and just a perfect name for a racehorse."

After connecting with Sergio Gomez at Northview, Marconi sent Galerio to Gomez's farm for breaking and early training before sending him to Berkley Kern's barn at Pimlico as a 2-year-old.

"Berkley's having a hard time with him because he's a

colt, and he stuck with it for a while, but I get a phone call from him saying something is wrong with Galerio's knee," Marconi said.

Gomez picked up the colt for Marconi and brought him back to Northview, where X-rays turned up nothing. After that, Marconi began his search for a new trainer, and a call from co-worker Joy Bird led him to her niece, Kim Boniface.

"[Kim] goes to Northview, picks Galerio up, watches him for a while and then takes him to Delaware Park," said Marconi. "My son and I [went] up to watch him do a two-minute mile workout [that September] and he was fantastic."

But by the next day, plans had changed.

"Kim calls me at work and says, 'I don't like how his tendon looks.' OK, so this time it's not his knee, it's his tendon," Marconi said. "She contacts the vet that does work for the Bonifaces and the vet says 'maybe you should just bring him back. He's a pretty heavy colt, maybe you should consider cutting him, because he's going to be really heavy on his shoulders,' so I gave him time off."

Gelded and with trainer Kevin Boniface, Galerio finished third in his debut at Delaware Park in May 2019. Second three times that summer, Galerio was risked for a claiming price for the first time in November, finished second again—and was claimed by

trainer Claudio Gonzalez and owner Robert Bone.

"It breaks your heart," said Marconi. "We made a few mistakes with Galerio, we probably shouldn't have dropped him for \$25,000."

Galerio's story was far from over.

After notching one more second to close his 3-year-old season, he returned and broke his maiden by 7½ lengths in a maiden special weight at Laurel Feb. 16. He won a starter at Laurel in March, another one in June, went to Parx Racing and added another in July, and won four of five more starts at Laurel through Dec. 15. The eighth victory came in November, and he was tied with Frost Or Frippery, Greeley's Charm and Combination for the national lead. Ten others had seven wins.

Galerio's \$229,425 in 2020 earnings led the eight-win gang.

"I'm so proud of Galerio," said Marconi. "I'm so proud of that horse because I always thought he was talented, and I still think there could be more room for upside. Every time he wins, Congaree Princess is more valuable. I've been in the winner's circle, my son's been in the winner's circle, my granddaughters have been in the winner's circle. I mean, [there are] so many [of his] races that I'm so proud of."

In another example of the ever-changing nature of racing, trainer Dale Bennett and SAB Stable claimed Galerio out of that November win. Marconi plans to stay connected.

"I talked to Dale, we text and email, and he thinks the world of him. Galerio seems well and he's thinking big things," said Marconi. "I think off of his last race, he deserves a chance, because the horse that he beat, Tattooed, he just lost second place to Harpers First Ride [in the Maryland Million Classic], and Harpers First Ride won the Pimlico Special-G3. And that told me Galerio can handle those horses if given the chance."

Meanwhile, Galerio's younger half-sister Bella Bet-

tina, named in honor of Marconi's mother Betty, made her debut in August as a 2-year-old at Colonial Downs and has made five additional starts. The daughter of Midshipman, also trained by Kevin Boniface, managed a second in her fourth start, a \$40,000 maiden special weight on the turf at Delaware Park in October. She will get the next few months off at Bonita Farm before returning for her 3-year-old season.

Congaree Princess didn't have a foal the past two years, but was carrying a Golden Lad foal for this year. Marconi had initially planned to breed her to Hoppertunity, but the recent successes of Golden Lad's offspring, especially his multiple stakes-winning filly Hello Beautiful, pushed him to overlook the B-rated nick.

The broodmare, who resides on Marconi's farm with a donkey companion, will be

sent to Chanceland Farm in West Friendship, Md., to foal out in the spring.

"I wanted to be closer to Congaree because she keeps getting abscesses in her hooves this year and I don't want her to be at Northview so far away," said Marconi. "I've had to call Dr. Radue twice now on her abscess. I think we've got it cleared now, knock on wood, but I just want to be a little closer."

Inspired by the success of star 2-year-old of 2020 Jackie's Warrior, Marconi plans to breed Congaree Princess to that colt's sire Maclean's Music, while toying with the idea of selling her in foal. And once Bella Bettina has done all she can on the track, Marconi has high hopes for her as a broodmare.

"It's an honor [to breed and race in Maryland]. It's something I don't take lightly. I think it's a good place to

raise a horse. It's got good ground, it has a lot of history behind it," said Marconi. "The breeder bonus, to a breeder and to an owner, is just a godsend. Every time Galerio wins, as long as he runs in Maryland, I get a check. And I'm perfectly happy with that. I have made a good amount of money on that."

He'd like to see racing's reliance on claiming races change, however.

"I think those rules should absolutely be looked at, because [for] a small-time breeder, it's not a cheap game," Marconi said. "You need at least \$50,000 to keep a horse going and do it right. You can't cut corners. The minute you start cutting corners is the minute you're going to hurt that horse or you're not going to achieve what you could."

Though his operation is small, his dreams remain big.

"Bella needs to do something, I think she will," he said. "And Galerio, he needs to keep on going. I mean you never know. But one thing it does—it always supplies hope," said Marconi. "As long as you don't know the answer, you've got hope."

"Galerio's progress reminds me of a great movie that my mom and dad always wanted us to watch as kids, *It's A Wonderful Life*. Everything that happens in life is for a reason and affects others. Without Northview and their team, without Kevin and Kim Boniface and their team, without Claudio and his team, Galerio would have never accomplished the things he has."

Marconi's first horse One Sock died March 22, 2020. He was 29. Though Marconi hasn't been foxhunting since 2018 due to health issues, he hopes he can get back in the saddle soon.



MARYLAND-BRED STAKES WINNERS

Fiya makes it five straight with Claiming Crown win

Rob Masiello's Fiya pushed his win streak to five with a gate-to-wire win in the \$90,000 Claiming Crown Canterbury Stakes at Gulfstream Park Dec. 5.

Fiya broke cleanly from the inside post and took over as he ran the 12-horse field through an opening quarter-mile in :22.15, with Fully Loaded stalking from the outside. Fiya opened up down the stretch to win by 1 1/2 lengths over Fully Loaded, with Harry's Onthe-loose third. After a half-mile in :44.08, final time for 5 furlongs on the turf was :55.63.

Fiya hasn't finished worse than third since his debut a

year ago November, improving to 5-1-1 and \$184,396 from seven starts.

"He really is an incredible turf horse, since we've seen him go from dirt to turf, he just does things so easily," said trainer Tom Albertrani. "From the first day I got him in the barn, I fell in love with him. He got my attention right away and looked like a superstar."

Making his first four starts at Laurel, Fiya kicked off his career last year on the dirt, where he finished third on debut and followed-up a month later with a second to Whiskey and You in December. Return-

ing this June after a nearly seven-month break, Fiya broke his maiden on the turf by 5 lengths in a 6-furlong waiver maiden.

Stepping up to allowance company in July, Fiya made headlines as he rocketed to a 3-length victory in 1:00.99 for 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf, earning a 98 Beyer Speed Figure and sitting just .25 off Laurel's Exceller turf course mark. It was his final start for owner/breeder Ann Merryman and trainer Michael Merryman, who consigned him to the Wannamaker's July online auction, where he was purchased for



Lauren King

\$400,000 by Masiello and sent to Albertrani in New York.

Debuting for his new connections Sept. 20 at Belmont Park, Fiya won a 6-furlong turf allowance and earned a 100 Beyer Speed Figure with a final time of 1:06.70. His success continued in his stakes debut in the Maryland Million Turf Sprint Oct. 24 against older runners, where he returned to Laurel to beat stakes winner So Street.

"Every time he runs, he just seems to run better and better. I think we'll give him a break now and bring him back later next year," Albertrani said.

Fiya is the third foal from Sista, a daughter of Two Punch, who was bred/owned by Ann Merryman and Laura McKin-

ney. Out of four foals produced, Sista has one winner from two starters, and has a 2019 filly by Holy Boss.

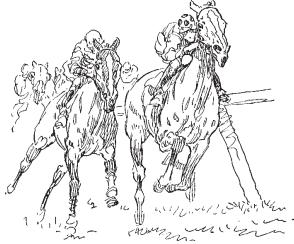


Field Pass records third graded score in Ontario Derby

Field Pass had a busy and solid 3-year-old season, and gained his third graded win of 2020 by maneuvering through traffic in Woodbine's \$125,000 Ontario Derby-G3 Nov. 21.

Making his first start at the Canadian track, Field Pass settled into third behind favorite Mighty Heart, who led the field through splits of :24.30

and :47.92. On the final turn, Field Pass was caught behind Malibu Mambo, Mighty Heart and Belichick, rallying from the outside. Field Pass took advantage of a slight gap between inside runner Malibu Mambo and Mighty Heart, driving past Belichick for the 1-length win.



MARYLAND FUND REPORT

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
August 1 to August 31, 2020

Breeder bonuses

All Aboard Stables—MIRACLE BOBBIE: Aug. 7, 5th race, \$907.50. REIN SUPREME: Aug. 6, 4th race, \$787.50. (\$1,695)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—GENNIE HIGHWAY: Aug. 28, 6th race, \$605. HINTING: Aug. 8, 5th race, \$1,417.50. (\$2,022.50)

Lorna L. Baker and Thomas H. Michaels Jr.—LAKI: Aug. 20, 6th race, \$2,887.50.

Barak Farm—DA BOZAK: Aug. 21, 3rd race, \$4,702.50. LECTRIC CHOKE: Aug. 1, 1st race, \$2,137.50. STROLL SMOKIN: Aug. 20, 2nd race, \$4,275. (\$11,115)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—BUCKEY'S CHARM: Aug. 21, 6th race, \$2,100.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—LUDICROUS MODE: Aug. 29, 5th race, \$1,207.50.

Best A Luck Farm LLC—MY FRIENDS BEER: Aug. 6, 6th race, \$1,155.

Best Foot Forward LLC—ALL ABOUT AUDREY: Aug. 22, 3rd race, \$605.

Bonita Farm—CALYPSO GHOST: Aug. 15, 1st race, \$522.50.

Frank A. Bonsal Jr.—LORDHAVEMERCY: Aug. 29, 9th race, \$495.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—PROPER AT-TIRE: Aug. 22, 7th race, \$4,702.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—RAPIDASHQUEEN: Aug. 13, 7th race, \$605.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dutrow Thoroughbred Enterprises—EASY RIVER: Aug. 8, 9th race, \$3,562.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Milton P. Higgins III—HEART HERO: Aug. 20, 9th race, \$495.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—UP AGAINST IT: Aug. 20, 5th race, \$4,132.50.

Phyllis M. Browne—PADRINO'S HEART: Aug. 15, 8th race, \$2,205.

Dorsey Brown and Richard Palmer—MONA LUNA: Aug. 20, 3rd race, \$5,700.

Buckingham Farm—I LOVE YOU: Aug. 13, 3rd race, \$687.50.

William Andrew Campbell—SEVEN ON THE ROCKS: Aug. 7, 9th race, \$1,470; Aug. 29, 1st race, \$3,990. (\$5,460)

Clover Hill Farm Inc.—ONCE IN A LIFETIME: Aug. 1, 1st race, \$787.50.

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—TOUGH-EST OMBRE: Aug. 22, 9th race, \$4,275.

Susan S. Cooney—ELEMENTARY: Aug. 8, 3rd race, \$577.50.

Cliff and Mary Cornwell and Country Life Farm—SUPER HOUDINI: Aug. 1, 4th race, \$1,732.50.

Cottonwood Stable LLC—CAN HE SHINE: Aug. 28, 8th race, \$962.50.

Country Life Farm—MAYAN QUEEN: Aug. 21, 9th race, \$3,135.

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Moons LLC—FIF-TEEN ROYALS: Aug. 22, 8th race, \$1,155.

Country Life Farm and Freedom Child Syndi-cate—GO AMANDA: Aug. 13, 8th race, \$3,135.

Country Life Farm and Moon Map Broodmare LLC—TOMMY SHELBY: Aug. 14, 8th race, \$1,837.50.

Country Roads Ltd.—ODDS ON: Aug. 29, 3rd race, \$2,137.50.

Dark Hollow Farm—BETCHA BY GOLLY: Aug. 8, 1st race, \$1,100; Aug. 22, 7th race, \$1,732.50.

HOT N SPICY LOVE: Aug. 7, 4th race, \$2,137.50. SECURITY BREACH: Aug. 14, 5th race, \$605. TAUBER: Aug. 29, 1st race, \$770. (\$6,345)

Double NK Partnership and Dennis Jankiewicz—UNSTOPABULL BELLE: Aug. 21, 9th race, \$1,155.

Final time for 1 1/8 miles over Woodbine's all-weather track was 1:48.35, just missing the track mark of 1:48.24 set by Global Access Sept. 28, 2019.

"My planning was that I didn't want to get too forward, but I didn't want to send him to the front," said jockey Kazushi Kimura. "That was the perfect position, just waiting for room."

The well-traveled son of Lemon Drop Kid trained by Mike Maker for Three Diamonds Farm had been worse than third just once in nine sophomore starts, all stakes. He counted additional wins in the Jeff Ruby Steaks-G3 over Turfway Park's all-weather track and the Transylvania

Stakes-G3 on Keeneland's turf in July, as well as Gulfstream Park's Dania Beach in February and Churchill Downs' Audubon Stakes in June. He also recorded consecutive thirds in Churchill Downs' American Turf-G2 in September and Santa Anita's Twilight Derby-G2 in October. His overall record is 6-2-3 from 15 starts, while earning \$553,893.

Bred by Mark Grier, Field Pass was purchased as a yearling for \$37,000 by Owls Bloodstock at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale. He is one of two named foals, both winners, out of the winning Runaway Groom mare Only Me.

Joanna J. Ingham Trust—I'VE GOTTA PLAN: Aug. 14, 1st race, \$1,155.

Ann B. Jackson—TACO SUPREAM: Aug. 14, 4th race, \$2,467.50.

Jellicoe Creek LLC—MY BOY PADDY: Aug. 28, 3rd race, \$1,100.

R. Larry Johnson—DAY THE MUSIC DIED: Aug. 8, 9th race, \$1,312.50. I'D LIKE TO KNOW: Aug. 15, 6th race, \$1,155. NEVER ENOUGH TIME: Aug. 8, 7th race, \$2,467.50. THUNDERINTHE-VALLEY: Aug. 7, 3rd race, \$495. (\$5,430)

R. Larry Johnson and Legacy Farm—GONE HOME: Aug. 14, 6th race, \$495.

Hope Haskell Jones—DEPOSITORY: Aug. 7, 6th race, \$2,100; Aug. 29, 4th race, \$5,700. (\$7,800)

Harry Kassap LLC—QUIET IMAGINATION: Aug. 21, 8th race, \$1,837.50.

Carol A. Kaye—AIR TOKEN: Aug. 1, 6th race, \$2,565; Aug. 27, 3rd race, \$1,155. BACK CHARGE: Aug. 14, 5th race, \$1,155. SMOKIN HOT FACTOR: Aug. 29, 3rd race, \$787.50. (\$5,662.50)

Gordon Keys—GRATEFUL BRED: Aug. 1, 2nd race, \$2,205.

Joanne P. Krishack—COMMANDING GENERAL: Aug. 7, 5th race, \$4,702.50.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—DARE TO PROMISE: Aug. 22, 7th race, \$907.50. MY GIRL BLUE: Aug. 28, 5th race, \$1,100. (\$2,007.50)

Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—TRICKY LION: Aug. 8, 6th race, \$412.50.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—CAMPARI: Aug. 7, 4th race, \$412.50. CHAUFFEUR: Aug. 7, 5th race, \$1,732.50. FEATURE ACT: Aug. 21, 2nd race, \$945. (\$3,090)

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—LIVE AID: Aug. 6, 7th race, \$3,847.50; Aug. 27, 5th race, \$1,470. (\$5,317.50)

Marathon Farm Inc.—ABUELO PAPS: Aug. 6, 6th race, \$2,205; Aug. 29, 7th race, \$962.50.

CHUCK'S DREAM: Aug. 22, 2nd race, \$787.50.

CLOSER LOOK: Aug. 20, 5th race, \$1,522.50.

WHO U GONNA CALL: Aug. 27, 6th race, \$632.50. (\$6,110)

Daniel E. Marconi—GALERIO: Aug. 14, 8th race, \$4,987.50; Aug. 27, 8th race, \$2,205. (\$7,192.50)

William Meister and Julie Arbogast—ZEN PI: Aug. 6, 1st race, \$742.50.

The Estate of Robert L. Miller—LOOKIN FOR CANDY: Aug. 22, 3rd race, \$3,135.

Mill Hill Stable LLC—MILLIE CHILD: Aug. 21, 1st race, \$945.

MOM Stable—WHAT THE FLASH: Aug. 27, 4th race, \$1,100.

Kevin P. Morgan—TAP THE MARK: Aug. 8, 8th race, \$962.50.

Edmund T. Mudge IV—AMPLIO ESQUEMA: Aug. 28, 9th race, \$1,417.50.
 Audrey R. Murray—PETION LASS: Aug. 15, 5th race, \$2,137.50. POUNDING MUSIC: Aug. 6, 7th race, \$1,417.50. (\$3,555)
 Nancy Lee Farms—EASTERN BAY: Aug. 20, 6th race, \$1,512.50.
 Cynthia Pence and Philip Spangler—NICK PAPA-GIORGIO: Aug. 14, 7th race, \$5,985.
 Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—BETHABARA: Aug. 6, 3rd race, \$1,155; Aug. 28, 6th race, \$3,135. HANALEI'S HOUDINI: Aug. 1, 8th race, \$2,362.50; Aug. 29, 8th race, \$6,412.50. MY

CANDY GIRL: Aug. 28, 6th race, \$1,155. PAINT MUSIC FOR ME: Aug. 14, 3rd race, \$1,732.50. (\$15,952.50)
 No Guts No Glory Farm—LITTLE BOLD BANDIT: Aug. 21, 3rd race, \$907.50.
 Carolyn H. Rogers Estate—IN CLASS: Aug. 13, 5th race, \$1,470.
 Roland Farm—SEVILLA SANGRIA: Aug. 8, 4th race, \$1,155; Aug. 22, 3rd race, \$1,155. (\$2,310)
 Timothy J. Rooney—BALLIVOR: Aug. 20, 4th race, \$2,362.50. MONEY FROMHEAVEN: Aug. 20, 8th race, \$2,362.50. (\$4,725)

Sagamore Farm LLC—POLISHED COPPER: Aug. 13, 7th race, \$3,135. START WITH YES: Aug. 14, 7th race, \$2,205. THE ROCK SAYS: Aug. 8, 8th race, \$4,987.50. YOUNGEST OF FIVE: Aug. 1, 2nd race, \$5,985. (\$16,312.50)
 Shamrock Farm—RAN CHAR: Aug. 7, 3rd race, \$45.

M. Terry Shane—MARGIE'S HEAVEN: Aug. 21, 8th race, \$962.50.
 Hamilton Smith, Fred Greene Jr. and Deborah Greene—THE POSER: Aug. 27, 8th race, \$1,155.
 South Branch Equine LLC—GOT YOU BEAT: Aug. 15, 6th race, \$3,135.

Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—AIN'T DA BEER COLD: Aug. 7, 6th race, \$5,700.

Spendthrift Farm LLC—BREVIARY: Aug. 1, 9th race, \$5,985; Aug. 20, 8th race, \$6,412.50. HALL PASS: Aug. 6, 2nd race, \$1,237.50; Aug. 20, 4th race, \$6,412.50. (\$20,047.50)

John D. Stuart—BELFOUR: Aug. 13, 4th race, \$3,562.50.

Sweet Spirits Stables, LLC—FILLE D'ESPRIT: Aug. 21, 1st race, \$2,565.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—ARTISTIC REASON: Aug. 8, 8th race, \$1,837.50. BULL SHARK: Aug. 20, 4th race, \$1,237.50. FOLLOW THE DOG: Aug. 7, 8th race, \$1,237.50. GIRL NEXT DOOR: Aug. 8, 2nd race, \$787.50. GIRLS LOVE ME: Aug. 21, 5th race, \$632.50. (\$5,732.50)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—CLOSERTOTHEHEART: Aug. 21, 6th race, \$1,100.

Thornmar Farm LLC—COCONUT CAKE: Aug. 22, 8th race, \$5,985. JUST CHILL OUT: Aug. 22, 2nd race, \$412.50. MINE TO HOLD: Aug. 14, 1st race, \$3,135. ROYAL THUNDER: Aug. 6, 1st race, \$1,417.50; Aug. 28, 7th race, \$4,702.50. YES MEANS NO: Aug. 20, 7th race, \$1,155. (\$16,807.50)

Thornmar Farm and Colleen Torsney—THAT-WOULD-BEGRAND: Aug. 29, 9th race, \$2,565.

Mark Toothaker and Dan White—GREASED-LIGHTNING: Aug. 6, 4th race, \$412.50; Aug. 22, 4th race, \$787.50. (\$1,200)

Ana C. Vena-Mosby—NATIVE COURAGE: Aug. 15, 9th race, \$742.50.

Robert S. Vukelic—CROUCHELLI: Aug. 13, 6th race, \$2,205.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayne Welker Jr.—DESHACKLED: Aug. 1, 4th race, \$907.50.

Winners Circle Partners VIII—GOLAZO: Aug. 29, 1st race, \$1,470.

Mrs. Frank P. Wright—CANNON'S ROAR: Aug. 28, 8th race, \$4,987.50. EXPECT TALK: Aug. 29, 6th race, \$412.50. GRACE ISABELLA: Aug. 15, 2nd race, \$1,312.50. (\$6,712.50)

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Arbutus: Aug. 29, 6th race, \$262.40. Little Bay: Aug. 15, 6th race, \$201.59): Robert Gerczak—\$463.99.

BANDBOX (Bull Shark: Aug. 20, 4th race, \$412.34. Bunting: Aug. 21, 8th race, \$1,661.84. Coconut Cake: Aug. 22, 8th race, \$1,994.20. Follow the Dog: Aug. 7, 8th race, \$412.34. Girl Next Door: Aug. 8, 2nd race, \$262.40. In Class: Aug. 13, 5th race, \$489.80. Queen of Tomorrow: Aug. 13, 5th race, \$1,329.47. Silver Sides: Aug. 20, 1st race, \$262.40. The Poser: Aug. 27, 8th race, \$384.85): Bandbox Syndicate—\$7,209.64.

BOURBON COURAGE (Native Courage: Aug. 15, 9th race, \$247.40. San Antone: Aug. 7, 6th race, \$366.52. What the Flash: Aug. 27, 4th race, \$366.52): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—\$980.44.

BUFFUM (Commanding General: Aug. 7, 5th race, \$1,566.87. Starting Tour: Aug. 15, 2nd race, \$1,187.03): Buffum Syndicate—\$2,753.90.

CAL NATION (Judi Blue Eyes: Aug. 1, 5th race, \$1,044.58; Aug. 28, 1st race, \$210.75): Cal Nation Syndicate—\$1,255.33.

CUBA (Laki: Aug. 20, 6th race, \$962.12): J&S Stables LLC.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Gone Home: Aug. 14, 6th race, \$164.93. Odds On: Aug. 29, 3rd race, \$712.22. Up Against It: Aug. 20, 5th race, \$1,376.95): R. Larry Johnson—\$2,254.10.

ETCHED (Calypso Ghost: Aug. 15, 1st race, \$174.10. Tattooed: Aug. 1, 8th race, \$2,136.65; Aug. 29, 8th race, \$787.19): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership—\$3,097.94.

FREEDOM CHILD Ain't Da Beer Cold: Aug. 7, 6th race, \$1,899.24. Go Amanda: Aug. 13, 8th race, \$1,044.58. Hall Pass: Aug. 6, 2nd race, \$412.34; Aug. 20, 4th race, \$2,136.65. Millie Child: Aug. 21, 1st race, \$314.87: Freedom Child Syndicate—\$5,807.68.

FRIESIAN FIRE (Rip Rap Riley: Aug. 27, 1st race, \$137.45. Who U Gonna Call: Aug. 27, 6th race, \$210.75): Friesian Fire Syndicate—\$348.20.

GOLDEN LAD (Air Token: Aug. 1, 6th race, \$854.66; Aug. 27, 3rd race, \$384.85. All About Audrey: Aug. 22, 3rd race, \$201.59. Margie's Heaven: Aug. 21, 8th race, \$320.71. Once in a Lifetime: Aug. 1, 1st race, \$262.40): Golden Lad Syndicate—\$2,024.21.

GREAT NOTION (Closetotheheart: Aug. 21, 6th race, \$366.52. Elementary: Aug. 8, 3rd race, \$192.42. Elusive Motion: Aug. 21, 2nd race, \$164.93. Fille d'Esprit: Aug. 21, 1st race, \$854.66. Grateful Bred: Aug. 1, 2nd race, \$734.71. Karan's Notion: Aug. 29, 7th race, \$1,661.84. Little Bold Bandit: Aug. 21, 3rd race, \$302.38. Miracle Bobbie: Aug. 7, 5th race, \$302.38. Rein Supreme: Aug. 6, 4th race, \$262.40. Zen Pi: Aug. 6, 1st race, \$247.40): Great Notion Syndicate—\$5,089.64.

HANGOVER KID (Pounding Music: Aug. 6, 7th race, \$472.31): Hangover Kid Syndicate.

IMAGINING (Heart Hero: Aug. 20, 9th race, \$164.93. Hinting: Aug. 8, 5th race, \$472.31. Lasting Image: Aug. 14, 3rd race, \$302.38. Proper Attire: Aug. 22, 7th race, \$1,566.87. Quiet Imagination: Aug. 21, 8th race, \$612.26): Imagining Syndicate—\$3,118.75.

KENDALLS BEAR (Nicky Bear: Aug. 20, 7th race, \$201.59): Dianne Fawley.

LION HEARTED (Barbsgray Lion: Aug. 22, 4th race, \$137.45. Tricky Lion: Aug. 8, 6th race, \$137.45): Lion Hearted Syndicate—\$274.90.

MOSLER (Depository: Aug. 7, 6th race, \$699.72; Aug. 29, 4th race, \$1,899.24): Country Life Famrm, Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock—\$2,598.96.

NICANOR (Ran Char: Aug. 7, 3rd race, \$314.87): Nicano Syndicate.

NOT FOR LOVE (Crush It: Aug. 14, 8th race, \$320.71. Easy River: Aug. 8, 9th race, \$1,187.03. Hot N Spicy Love: Aug. 7, 4th race, \$712.22): Not For Love Syndicate—\$2,219.96.

ORIENTATE (Cannon's Roar: Aug. 28, 8th race, \$1,661.84. Mine to Hold: Aug. 14, 1st race, \$1,044.58): Orientate Syndicate—\$2,706.42.

OUTFLANKER (Crouchelli: Aug. 13, 6th race, \$734.71. Nick Papagiorgio: Aug. 14, 7th race, \$1,994.20): Outflanker Syndicate—\$2,728.91.

PETIONVILLE (Petion Lass: Aug. 15, 5th race, \$712.22. Voodoo Valley: Aug. 22, 2nd race, \$712.22): Everest Stables Inc.—\$1,424.44.

PLAN (I've Gotta Plan: Aug. 14, 1st race, \$384.85. Polished Gal: Aug. 7, 1st race, \$1,092.06): Stronach Group LP—\$1,476.91.

REDEEMED (Cousin Jimmy: Aug. 14, 7th race, \$384.85): Redeemed Syndicate.

ROCK SLIDE (Seven On the Rocks: Aug. 7, 9th race, \$489.80; Aug. 29, 1st race, \$1,329.47): Shamrock Farms—\$1,819.27.

SEVILLE (GER) (Amplio Esquema: Aug. 28, 9th race, \$472.31. Gennie Highway: Aug. 28, 6th race, \$201.59. I Love You: Aug. 13, 3rd race, \$229.08. Mint Game: Aug. 8, 5th race, \$1,281.99. Sevilla Sangria: Aug. 8, 4th race, \$384.85; Aug. 22, 3rd race, \$384.85): Seville Syndicate—\$2,954.67.

STREET MAGICIAN (I'd Like to Know: Aug. 15, 6th race, \$384.85): R. Larry Johnson.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Breviary: Aug. 1, 9th race, \$1,994.20; Aug. 20, 8th race, \$2,136.65. Super Houdini: Aug. 1, 4th race, \$577.27. Tommy Shelby: Aug. 14, 8th race, \$612.26): Country Life Farm and Spendthrift—\$5,320.38.

TRITAP (Rapdashqueen: Aug. 13, 7th race, \$201.59. Tappin Cat: Aug. 7, 8th race, \$2,136.65. Tap the Mark: Aug. 8, 8th race, \$320.71): Tritap Syndicate—\$2,658.95.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2020

(through December 2)

1. Knicks Go	\$608,440	11. Artful Splatter.....	\$188,717
2. Field Pass.....	438,143	12. Street Lute	170,220
3. Harpers First Ride	435,623	13. Karan's Notion	160,846
4. Sharing.....	326,451	14. Double Crown	150,625
5. Laki.....	235,030	15. Hello Beautiful	150,552
6. Galerio.....	229,425	16. Majestic Reason	150,000
7. Project Whiskey	199,280	17. Stroll Smokin	146,142
8. Never Enough Time..	198,131	18. Air Token.....	145,122
9. Pete's Play Call.....	190,645	19. Monday Morning Qb	140,155
10. Eastern Bay	190,600	20. Nick Papagiorgio	126,377

Maryland Horse Breeders Association Business Member Spotlight



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- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - January 2021 -

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Pickin' Time emerges as Derby candidate with G3 Nashua win

By Bill Finley



ADAM COGLIANESE

After New Jersey-bred Pickin' Time won the Nashua Stakes-G3 at Aqueduct Nov. 8, owner/breeder John Bowers Jr. tried to keep things in perspective.

"The Kentucky Derby is a long way off," he said. "I'm not crazy. I know it is a million-to-one."

That may be, but Pickin' Time took an important step forward in the Nashua and is, at the very least, a horse to watch during the 3-year-old prep season in 2021.

Pickin' Time broke his maiden in his first start but was hardly an overnight sensation. Trainer Kelly Breen sent him to Saratoga after that race and the son of Stay Thirsty finished eighth, beaten 18 lengths after breaking a bit slowly. He got a 50 Beyer number in his debut and a 47 in the Saratoga race. But Bowers wasn't discouraged.

"He made a good middle move in that race at Saratoga and that was a telltale sign," he said. "Then, the jockey basically wrapped up on him,

Kelly was relatively high on the horse from the start and is still high on the horse."

Stretching out to a mile, he showed improvement when second in the Sapling and followed that up with a narrow win over open company in the Smoke Glacken Stakes, both at Monmouth.

The Nashua loomed as a much more difficult test. The 6-5 favorite was the Shug McGaughey-trained Ten for Ten, a \$410,000 yearling purchase who had just broken his maiden by 8 lengths. Isolate, the second choice, was 2-for-2 and had won an allowance race at Gulfstream by 10 lengths. Trained by Bill Mott, Nova Rags was also coming off a maiden win at Belmont.

Sent off at 9-1 and ridden by Trevor McCarthy, Pickin' Time settled into fifth down the backstretch, went after the leaders on the turn, took over in mid-stretch and drew off to win by 2½ lengths over pacesetter Ten for Ten.

"He's just growing into himself," Breen said after the Nashua. "He was kind of a big and gawky 2-year-old. When he ran in Saratoga, he ran against that real nice horse of Steve Asmussen's [Grade 1 winner Jackie's Warrior]. We didn't get off great that day. Today was the right timing and everything worked out well for him."

Said McCarthy: "We got a great break and that's what I wanted; get him out

and make sure he had a comfortable spot, which he did. Looking down the backside, I was very comfortable where I was. I wasn't getting too much kickback and that seems to be a pretty big key this weekend. I was able to get outside coming to the turn and let him get in his mojo. After that, he really accelerated strong for me and gave me a great effort through the lane. I was delighted."

The 1-mile race run over a fast track went in 1:39.89 and Pickin' Time got an 82 Beyer, the best of his career.

Bowers said no races have been picked out other than the Grade 2 Remsen (he finished fourth in the Dec. 5 stakes), but said the likely plan is that Pickin' Time will head to Florida, where he will eye Gulfstream's series of preps for the Derby.

The only thing that Pickin' Time has not done yet is win around two turns. Bowers doesn't think it will be a problem.

"We don't think he has any distance limitations," he said before the Remsen, run at 1½ miles. "He's by Stay Thirsty and his mare [Born to Royalty] ran long. We are confident. He ran a mile in the Nashua and closed on those horses in New York. So, we're hoping for the best in the Remsen."

The Nashua win was just the latest success for Bowers, who had one of his best years in the business in 2020. Pickin' Time is a half-brother to Royal

Urn, also trained by Breen and owned by Bowers. The son of Kantharos won three stakes in 2020 during his 4-year-old season, all for Jersey-breds. Then there is Stay Smart, also by Stay Thirsty. Bred and owned by Bowers in partnership with Edward Rosen, she won three of six starts last year at 4, including the Smart N Classy Handicap for Jersey-breds named for her dam. Bowers is also high on Hespuregold. By Vancouver (Aus), the Jersey-bred is a half-brother to graded stakes winner Valedictorian and Stay Smart. In his 2-year-old debut, he finished third in an Oct. 16 maiden special on the turf at Keeneland at odds of 70-1.

"We've been doing this a long time," Bowers said. "What's gone right is that Born to Royalty threw two nice horses in Pickin' Time and Royal Urn. Royal Urn is a nicer horse than you would think. Between Joe Bravo and Trevor McCarthy, we've had good rides and have been very lucky to have two nice horses. Stay Smart has won Jersey-bred races. She's not a champion of champions but she's been able to hold her own in Jersey-bred competition."

Pickin' Time reflects Bowers' commitment to New Jersey racing and breeding. Not only did he breed and race Pickin' Time's dam, Born to Royalty, he was the breeder and owner of her dam, Teenage Queen, as well as the next two dams on the maternal side of his pedigree. All were Jersey-breds.

"I have been doing this for about 35 years," he said. "My wife and I have foaled over 35 horses."

He's had some good horses over the years, including Smart N Classy, who earned \$463,709. But he's never had a young horse with the potential Pickin' Time has shown. Maybe his winning the Derby is a million-to-one shot, but at least Bowers is in the game.

Army Mule Offer

St. Elias Stables is offering members of the TBANJ an exciting opportunity to breed to Army Mule, who is standing the 2021 breeding season at Hill 'n' Dale Farms for \$7,500. A TBANJ member who is interested in breeding to Army Mule and foaling in New Jersey will receive the stud fee for \$5,000 and all shipping expenses will be paid for the round trip to Kentucky.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this great offer please contact the TBANJ office at 732-542-8880 or via email to njbreds@gmail.com.



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2021 Thoroughbred Race Dates

Monmouth Park Racetrack will conduct 53 live race days in 2021 with an additional nine days of turf racing to follow at the Meadowlands.

With approval from the New Jersey Racing Commission granted Nov. 18, Monmouth Park has been given the green light to commence its 2021 season on Friday, May 28, followed by the next three days in May including Memorial Day, Monday, May 31. The months of June, July and August will see live cards on Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays.

September will have live racing on Saturdays and Sundays as well as Friday, Sept. 3 and Monday, Sept. 6 for Labor Day.

Racing will shift north to the Meadowlands on Friday, Oct. 1 for live racing on Friday and Saturdays through Oct. 30. There will be no live racing at the Meadowlands on Saturday, Oct. 16 as racing will be conducted at the Far Hills meet at Moorland Farm.

Our November 2020 newsletter incorrectly listed the breeder of Pianzi on page 4. The correct breeders are Isabelle de Tomaso and Hope Haskell Jones.

No Cents wins James F. Lewis III



Isabelle de Tomaso and Hope Jones' homebred No Cents, making his first start at his home base of Laurel Park and his stakes debut off back-to-back wins at Monmouth Park, corralled favored Dalton in mid-stretch and edged past for a comfortable 1 1/4-length victory Nov. 28 in the \$100,000 James F. Lewis III Stakes for 2-year-olds.

No Cents (\$10.80) completed the distance in 1:09.16 over a fast main track to give jockey Trevor McCarthy his third straight Lewis win and fourth overall. He also finished first with eventual graded-stakes winner El Areeb in 2016, Scrap Copper in 2018 and Newstome in 2019. Winning trainer Cal Lynch also trained El Areeb.

"I definitely wanted to leave a little something in the tank and not overdo it with him. He's a 2-year-old so hopefully we'll have a bright future with him," McCarthy said after the race. "Cal seems to always have these colts ready, so big

credit to him. It's just a huge privilege to me. They made me look good today."

Dalton, beaten a neck when second to subsequent Nashua-G3 winner Pickin' Time in his previous start, showed good early foot and established the lead before Lugamo, riding a two-race win streak, worked over from his outside post to be in front after a quarter-mile in :22.05. McCarthy settled No Cents in fifth and was still looking at a wall of horses when the field rounded the far turn.

Lugamo maintained a slim margin after a half in :45.02 but was quickly overtaken by Dalton at the top of the stretch. At that point, McCarthy tipped No Cents to the middle of the track and set his sights on Dalton, steadily gaining ground before wresting the lead away inside the eighth pole.

It was 2 1/4 lengths back to Lugamo in third and another three to Texas Basin, followed by Heir Port, Kenny Had a Notion, Singlino and Fearless Fly. Kenny



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Had a Notion had won his two previous races, both in Laurel stakes, one each on the turf and dirt.

"We had a great trip. We had a good break and I was happy to get a good position and be able to follow [Dalton]. That was kind of my target to run with, so it was nice," McCarthy said. "We were able to save ground and get a nice little breather and when we came past

the five-sixteenths pole, I was just being patient with him. I knew I had a ton of horse underneath me and I was just kind of seeing where [Dalton] went.

"As soon as I tipped outside of him I just gave him a nice target to run at," he added. "When I wanted him to finish up strong, he did, and when I wanted him to take a little bit of a break at the wire when I knew I kind of had it, he settled

down. He's very push-button. He does everything you want him to do."

A bay son of Goldencents out of the Petitionville mare Faker, No Cents made each of his first three starts in New Jersey. Second by a length in his Aug. 29 debut, he won a maiden special weight against state-breds Sept. 27 before a game neck open allowance triumph Oct. 21. In four starts he earned \$149,500.

Horologist honored by New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Multiple graded stakes-winning Horologist was named the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's New Jersey-bred Thoroughbred of the Year for 2020.

Horologist started her 4-year-old season in California with trainer Richard Baltas and was ultimately transferred to the care of Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott in June. Under Mott's supervision

Horologist won the \$250,000 Molly Pitcher Stakes-G3 at Monmouth Park and the \$150,000 Beldame Stakes-G2 at Belmont Park. Horologist also finished second in the \$100,000 Nellie Morse Stakes at Laurel and third in the \$500,000 La Troienne Stakes-G1 at Churchill Downs.

Horologist is owned by the partnership of There's A Chance Stable,

Parkland Thoroughbreds, Medallion Racing, Abbondonza Racing, LLC, Paradise Farms Corp, and David Staudacher.

Horologist earned \$345,334 in 2020; lifetime she has seven wins from 20 starts, for total earnings of \$715,439. Horologist was bred in New Jersey by Holly Crest Farm.

Stallion Season Auction set for Feb. 6

The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey (TBANJ) will conduct its annual Stallion Season Auction beginning on Saturday, Feb. 6 and ending Monday, Feb. 8.

The online auction is being hosted on the Starquine bidding platform at www.starquine.com. All participants must be registered with Starquine prior to bidding. Starquine offers an automatic

bidding process that allows participants to enter the maximum amount they are willing to pay for a season. Starquine then keeps bidding on the buyer's behalf until the maximum amount is reached or high bidder. Each season's conditions will be posted as part of their auction page on Starquine.

All proceeds from the auction go to the TBANJ, which uses the funds for

promoting the Thoroughbred breeding industry in New Jersey.

Stallion seasons will be added until the auction begins Feb. 6. A complete list of available seasons will be listed on www.njbreds.com.

Please contact the TBANJ office at 732-542-8880 for additional information.



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North Carolina



THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

January 2021

President's message

Happy New Year, everyone. Congratulations on successfully navigating through and pivoting with everything that last year brought. Now let's get on with accomplishing your racing hopes that each New Year, Triple Crown season, and the birth of each new foal brings. I'll be on the virtual, if not the actual, apron cheering for you.

Although the racing interruption we experienced last year was frustrating, when your horses returned to the track, they started winning like never before. Each month, I recorded and reported more wins than the previous month.

This term, Frank Batten, Dan and Christy Shea, Nancy Shuford, Clint Lowry, and Bill Thompson had horses they are connected to reach the winner's circle. Good for them!

Remember that your membership expired Dec. 31. If you haven't renewed yet, please do. The NCTA needs you. Thank you for your support.

/Rebecca Montaldo

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Racing Recap



RYAN THOMPSON

Ima Daredevil (NC), by Daredevil out of Prom Dress, by Stephen Got Even, won at Gulfstream Park West Oct. 25 for breeder Frank Batten. The 3-year-old filly ran off the pace early but took the lead at the five-sixteenths pole. She drew clear to win by 6 lengths running 6 furlongs on a sloppy sealed track.



ADAM COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Shea D Sumer, by Summer Front out of Empress of Gold, by Empire Maker, won the Juvenile Fillies Sprint Stakes at Gulfstream Park West Nov. 14 for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. The 2-year-old filly ran 6½ furlongs in 1:17.09 on a sloppy sealed track. Setting a fast pace along the rail she drew clear to win by 6¾ lengths.

Honorifique, by Honor Code out of Doubled, by Exchange Rate, broke her 2-year-old maiden at Churchill Downs Nov. 14 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The

filly ran 1 mile in 1:36.70 on a fast track. Running three-wide while stalking the pace, she rivaled for the lead around the turn, took control at the quarter pole while rebelling a challenge, drew clear in upper stretch to win by 3¼ lengths.

Dionysus' Challenge, by Fiber Sonde out of Athena Grand, by Civilisation, won at Mountaineer Nov. 17 for breeder Clint Lowry. The then 5-year-old gelding went 5½ furlongs in 1:05.51 on a muddy, sealed track. With a sharp break, the gelding held the lead from gate-to-wire to win by 2 lengths.

Cayenne Creek, by Misremembered out of the Bring the Heat mare Hot Creek Risin', won at Mountaineer Nov. 17 for breeder Clint Lowry. The 4-year-old gelding ran 6 furlongs in 1:12.34 on a muddy, sealed track. Breaking alertly, Cayenne Creek set the pace to clear the pack in upper stretch, crossing the line with a 3¾ length lead.

Humor Controller, by Distorted Humor out of Peppy Rafaela, by Bernardini, won at Remington Park Nov. 20 for breeder Frank Batten. The 3-year-old colt ran one mile on the turf in 1:37.59. Settling near the back of the pack, he made his move on the far turn and under a hard drive got the jump in the final strides to win by three-quarters of a length.

Lyrical Gangster, by Can the Man out of Legato, by Where's the Ring, won at Woodbine Nov. 20 for breeder and owner, William Thompson (Maple Lane Farm). The 2-year-old ran the mile and 70 yards in 1:44.37. Lyrical Gangster broke inward, stalked the pace, closed around the far turn and drew clear down the stretch winning under a hand ride by 4½ lengths.

Hitting the Board October 25–November 24

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Result
25-Oct	Ima Daredevil (NC)	Gulfstream Park West	Bred by Frank Batten	WINNER!
26-Oct	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	2nd
26-Oct	Precious Arch	Indiana Grand	Owned by Richard Wolf-DRW Racing, LLC	2nd
27-Oct	Dixieland Traffic	Indiana Grand	Owned by Richard Wolf-DRW Racing, LLC	2nd
28-Oct	Secret Zar	Parx Racing	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
28-Oct	Sag Harbor	Churchill Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
30-Oct	Proud Mandate	Laurel Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
1-Nov	Liberty Fire	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
3-Nov	Saints Marching In	Mahoning Valley	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
9-Nov	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	3rd
13-Nov	And Seek	Churchill Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper in a partnership	2nd
14-Nov	Shea D Summer	Gulfstream Park West \$60K Juv F Stks	Owned by Dan & Christy Shea - Shea D Boys Stables	WINNER!
14-Nov	Honorifique	Churchill Downs	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
15-Nov	Cainudothetwist	Charleston - Hurdles	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	3rd
16-Nov	Precious Arch	Indiana Grand	Owned by Richard Wolf-DRW Racing, LLC	2nd
16-Nov	Dixieland Traffic	Indiana Grand	Owned by Richard Wolf-DRW Racing, LLC	2nd
17-Nov	Dionysus' Chalice	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Clint Lowry	WINNER!
17-Nov	Cayenne Creek	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Clint Lowry	WINNER!
17-Nov	Saints Marching In	Mountaineer Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
20-Nov	Humor Controller	Remington Park	Bred by Frank Batten	WINNER!
20-Nov	Texas Wedge	Del Mar	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
20-Nov	Lyrical Gangster	Woodbine	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson - Maple Lane Farm	WINNER!
23-Nov	Secret Zar	Parx Racing	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public
sale or entering state if being bred
back to PA-sire

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- Racing and breeding news
- PA-Bred entries/results
- Rules, regulations, forms

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TOBA Breeder of the Year Larry Karp

by Emily Shields

"I'm just not that big of a deal," Larry Karp insists. "I'm just a little guy with a couple of mares."

Whether or not his assessment is correct, Karp has done something right, as the 77-year-old was named not only the Thoroughbred Owner and Breeders Association's State Breeder of the Year for Pennsylvania for 2019, but also the National Small Breeder of the Year.

"I wasn't surprised about getting it for Pennsylvania," he admitted, "because my mare and her foal (Grade 1 winner Mirth) took all the awards here—I got five awards from the state [in 2020]. But to get it nationally really blew me away."

The mare in question is Di's Delight, who Karp's Barlar LLC purchased for \$55,000 in 2011.

"So much of what you do in this sport is fate," Karp said last fall. "I bought Di's Delight nine years ago at Keeneland November, and she did okay! She threw runners, winners, whatever, but nothing special until Mirth."

He went on to note that the story of Pennsylvania-bred Mirth had its own fairytale twist. "I had a dilemma on who to breed Di's Delight to one year. Carl McEntee, who is my bloodstock guy, was the bloodstock manager at Darby Dan Farm in Kentucky. He told me his boss had a season to Colonel John, and why don't we do a mare share? I put up the mare, he put up the stud, and then you sell the mare at Keeneland and split it. I thought that was a good idea, because Colonel John stood for \$15,000 and I thought he fit well with my mare."



Grade 1 winner Mirth was one of three 2019 stakes winners bred by Larry Karp's Barlar LLC.

Di's Delight got pregnant, and Karp figured she would sell for the typically formulated two and a half times the stud fee. "I thought she'd go between \$35,000 and \$40,000," he said. "I'm watching the sale, listening with Carl, and it stalled at \$19,000. So, I blurted out, 'Look, if it doesn't get past \$22,000, I'll take her back!'"

Di's Delight hammered at \$23,000, with Karp having to pay \$11,500 to get out of the partnership. "It was less than the stud fee, and I ended up with Mirth," he said. "And if I hadn't kept Di's Delight, I wouldn't have Vault. Talk about fate playing a part."

Mirth won six of 18 starts with four seconds and two thirds. Her signature score came in the \$300,000 Rodeo Drive Stakes-G1 at Santa Anita in 2019, one month before she gave owners Little Red Feather Racing a thrill by leading the

TOBA Award Winner Karp *continued from page 1*

field in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-G1 before tiring to sixth. In foal to Constitution, Mirth sold at Fasig-Tipton's elite Kentucky mixed sale this past November for \$1.05 million to Katsumi Yoshida.

While Mirth may have gotten away, Karp still has a percentage of Vault. Born one year after Mirth in 2016, Vault won five of 17 starts with 10 top two finishes, and earned \$224,914. The daughter of Pennsylvania legend Jump Start won the Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes at Laurel Park in 2019, was second in two stakes in 2020, and remains in training through the end of 2021.

For someone who is meant to have a small broodmare band, Karp finds himself with eight broodmares, all of whom are pregnant. "I wanted four, five at the most," he joked. "I've been trying to get the operation to the right size."

In the band is Di's Delight, who is 21 years old. "We're getting to the end," Karp admitted regarding Di's Delight's age. "She's in foal to Midshipman, and I'm almost for sure going to have her foal in

Pennsylvania. What happens after that is in Mother Nature's hands."

Karp also owns Imply, a Pennsylvania-bred who won seven stakes and earned \$772,728. "She's a special case, in that I could have sold her at Keeneland for a substantial amount of money, but I decided to breed her commercially and have the option of keeping her foals, or racing them." Imply is in foal to \$40,000 sire Hard Spun.

Although he keeps trying to pare down the operation, Karp purchased the Dansili mare Cycle (GB) from England and has bred her to dual Grade 1-winner Brody's Cause. "I happened to own a lifetime breeding right to Brody's Cause," he explained. "He has been a surprising first-year stallion with five stakes horses and a Grade 3 winner out of a small group."

Brody's Cause isn't the only stallion Karp is invested in; he owns Maryland stallion Alliance, an unraced half-brother to champion Tepin. "Half of my mares are in foal to Alliance," he said. "The other half are in foal to Kentucky stallions."

The ability to foal them in Pennsylvania is part of the appeal. "I don't have anything to look forward to anymore, what with Covid," Karp said. "I haven't left my house in six months. So, I was very grateful for the award from TOBA. I will continue to breed horses for the programs in Pennsylvania and Maryland, because they don't have to be superstars and they still earn money. Over the years I've bred six or seven stakes winners myself, and not one of them was by a stallion that cost more than \$10,000."

Karp was gratified to see his team rewarded for their efforts. "I've been with Carl for 10 or 12 years, and the guy that breaks my horses and gets them started is someone I've been with 35 years. I've only had three trainers over 36 years. It's a small group of people who have supported me, and I'm grateful to every one of them."

Although pleased, receiving the award still baffles Karp. "I don't know how I got to be the national guy; it's just mind boggling. But it's been fun and I will continue with the program to the extent that I can."

A few words from the Executive Secretary

The year 2020 was full of very difficult times for all and I hope that we can get back to a semi-normal state sometime in 2021. With all that happened, you hung in and made 2020 a great year for the Pennsylvania Breeding Program. Our number of mares bred increased for the fourth year in a row. New stallions continue to arrive and we have the best breeding program in the nation.

Your help contacting Legislators was the reason the Race Horse Development Trust Fund remained untouched. We need your help again. Please contact your representatives and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors to Rep. Christina Sappey's bill to allow us to issue the Breeders award checks

directly from our office. This would allow you to receive them in 30-45 days instead of 90 days or more. We need bipartisan buy-in to make this happen, so please contact your representatives as soon as you can.

Remember, if you purchase a mare in foal at a public auction after Dec. 1, she must be brought into the state within 14 days of purchase through foaling (60 days if purchased at an overseas sale). During the foaling year the foal or its dam must spend at least 90 days in the state in order for that foal to be eligible to become a registered PA-Bred. You can also bring in your mare anytime, stay 60 consecutive days through foaling and breed back to a PA Sire. You

can find that PA Sire in our new 2021 Stallion and Boarding Farm Directory. You should be receiving one shortly if you haven't already. You can also view it at pabred.com.

Our 11th annual Stallion Auction on thoroughlybred.com will begin Jan. 12 and ends Jan. 18, so you'll be able to bid on seasons from PA Sires and stallions all over the country. Just go to our website to view the available seasons. Here's to a fantastic 2021 and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Go Pa!!





11TH ANNUAL STALLION AUCTION

JANUARY 12 @ 12:01 A.M.
THROUGH
JANUARY 18 @ 9 P.M.

at thoroughlybred.com

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for a current list
of stallion seasons!



PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through October 31, 2020

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	242,909	242,909	Mary R. Szyller	73,513	0	73,513
Glenn E. Brok LLC	122,147	62,854	185,000	Flint W. Stites	58,568	11,569	70,138
William J. Solomon VMD	99,447	68,394	167,841	Richard N. Miller	54,009	10,927	64,936
Blackstone Farm LLC	161,398	0	161,398	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	50,809	10,677	61,487
Fantasy Lane Stable Inc.	112,677	37,227	149,904	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	61,191	0	61,191
Pewter Stable	90,807	21,650	112,457	Ashwell Stables Inc.	55,936	0	55,936
Thomas G. McClay	97,099	0	97,099	Yaroslaw Kolybabiuk MD	54,670	0	54,670
Patricia L. Chapman	71,908	25,077	96,984	Vicky Schowे	50,280	0	50,280
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	95,829	0	95,829	Wendy H. Mutnick	50,085	0	50,085
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	52,434	38,296	90,730	Godstone Farm LP	28,518	18,569	47,087
Sylmar Farm Inc.	87,366	0	87,366	Castle Rock Farm	47,031	0	47,031
Donald L. Brown Jr.	71,352	14,893	86,245	Barlar LLC	37,043	9,024	46,068

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

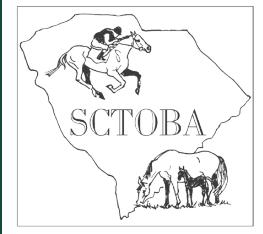
Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	417	137,171	Messner	Donald L. Brown Jr.	13	14,893
El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	164	73,186	Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr.	36	12,667
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	82	47,904	Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	28	12,619
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	133	47,441	Reflect Times	Flint W. Stites	26	11,569
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	153	38,296	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	31	11,260
Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	108	25,077	Petionville	Everest Stables Inc.	31	10,326
Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	98	23,401	Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	8	10,142
Wlnchill	Pewter Stable	33	20,578	Peace and Justice	A1A Racing	8	8,838
Any Given Saturday	William J. Solomon VMD	75	18,915	E Dubai	Barlar LLC	31	8,704
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	74	16,301	Il Villano	Chuck Russo	23	7,781
Partner's Hero	Peter Giangiulio	50	15,836	Cat Thief	Michael W. Jester	25	7,241
Mad Flatter	Glenn E. Brok LLC	75	15,272	Wiseman's Ferry	Lainey Bug Stables LLC	9	7,077

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Restricted	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Owner Bonus	Total
Wait for It *	Uptowncharlybrown - Kimberley Diamond	Fantasy Lane Stable Inc.	4	0	91,200	67,664	16,916	15,760	191,540
Its a Journey *	Jump Start - Lovely Senorita	Mary R. Szyller	3	0	44,400	41,240	10,310	13,600	109,550
Pink Caddy *	El Padrino - Avani Force	Vicky Schowे	2	0	46,800	31,800	7,950	0	86,550
Caravel	Mizzen Mast - Zeezee Zoomzoom	Elizabeth M. Merryman	4	0	47,400	27,150	0	3,252	77,802
Midtowncharlybrown * Uptowncharlybrown - Torchwood	Godric LLC	1	0	47,400	23,700	5,925	0	0	77,025
Final Shot *	Talent Search - Last Shot	Wendy H. Mutnick	6	0	7,900	37,534	9,384	16,960	71,778
Dreamer's Moon	Alternation - Dream Realized	Blackstone Farm LLC	7	0	0	28,986	0	34,380	63,366
Admiral Abe	Midshipman - Precious Penny	James Walker	9	0	7,400	24,286	0	31,672	63,358
Madam Meena	Include - Good Tidings	Michael R. Cox	10	0	8,690	27,380	0	22,760	58,830
Brilliant Chase	Golden Lad - Fix You	Matthew T. Groff	8	0	0	28,571	0	25,020	53,591
The Critical Way	Tizway - Critical Factor	Blackstone Farm LLC	1	0	44,400	8,880	0	0	53,280
Promised Storm *	El Padrino - Innovative	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	5	0	0	33,552	8,388	11,280	53,220
Cinnabunny	Golden Lad - English Mum	Shooting Star Stable	5	0	0	26,768	0	22,640	49,408
Mess'n Around *	Messner - She Is a Lioness	Donald L. Brown Jr.	2	0	0	23,856	5,964	17,040	46,860
My Danzig Partner *	Partner's Hero - Second in Power	Castle Rock Farm	10	0	0	25,015	5,569	15,912	46,496
Wise Jude *	Wiseman's Ferry - Sweet as You Are	A & J Racing Stable LLC	4	0	0	24,948	6,237	14,720	45,905
Like a Saltshaker *	Peace and Justice - With Sprinkles	Glenn E. Brok LLC	3	0	0	32,040	7,308	6,480	45,828
E T's Gypsy Woman *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	2	0	0	28,740	6,240	10,800	45,780
Dreams Untold	Smarty Jones - Shootforthestars	Patricia L. Chapman	4	0	0	24,338	0	20,640	44,978
Irish Cork	Flat Out - Circustown Rose	Two-Turn Farm LLC	6	0	0	20,776	0	23,680	44,456
Ruby Bleu *	Messner - Ruby Soul	Donald L. Brown Jr.	6	0	0	22,215	5,554	15,868	43,637
Peach Alley *	Jump Start - How Bout Tonight	Thomas G. McClay	6	0	0	21,644	5,411	15,460	42,515
Tara's Talent *	Talent Search - Graemy	Glenn E. Brok LLC	5	0	0	24,838	6,210	10,916	41,964
Graves Island *	Petionville - Sherrie Belle	Robert C. Roffey Jr.	8	0	0	23,490	5,873	11,636	40,999

*Denotes PA-sired



South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

Racing Across the Nation

Six horses who went through the breaking process on South Carolina farms and training centers entered the winner's circle following stakes races between Oct. 24 and Nov. 17.

The 2-year-old gelding Brooklyn Strong had only two beat early in the Sleepy Hollow Stakes Oct. 24 at Belmont Park. Three wide, only a length back after three-quarters, Brooklyn Strong made the lead at the sixteenth pole and drove home a 2 1/4-length winner. He prepared for his racing career at Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center.

Another 2-year-old, Hungarian Princess, is a three-time winner in five career starts. She captured the Indiana Stallion Fillies Stakes at Indiana Grand Oct. 29. Hungarian Princess broke sharply and sat off the flank of the leader early on. She took command at the top of the stretch and came home a 4 3/4-length winner. This filly came up through "Goree" Smith's program at the Ellmore Training Center.

Another Webb Carroll Training Center graduate, Dreaming of Drew, broke on top and never looked back in the Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Woodbine Oct. 31. In front by 1 1/2 lengths after the opening half-mile, she extended her lead to 3 3/4 lengths at the wire.

Two more of Durr's former students won stakes Nov. 14. No Cents, fifth early on, came four wide into the stretch and when the leaders reached the eighth pole, he shifted into a higher gear and hit the wire 1 1/4 lengths in front. An hour later up in Canada, Jill Marie proved best in the South Ocean Stakes at Woodbine. Jill Marie broke awkwardly stumbling and then quickly moved up into a contending position. In an eventful trip, she came between horses exhibiting her desire to win and she did by 1 1/2 lengths.

Russian Influence has now won two of her three career starts. In the Miss Indiana Stakes at Indiana Grand Nov. 17, she trailed the field for the opening half-mile, began passing horses one by one

and in a determined effort, got up to win rather easily by 2 3/4 lengths. She learned her early lessons under the watchful eye of Donna Freyer in Camden and is owned Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group, LLC.

Charleston Steeplechase brings close to NSA season

The 2020 National Steeplechase Association season came to a close Nov. 15 as the final meet, Steeplechase of Charleston, was held in Hollywood. Five races were run: four were contested going 2 1/4 miles over National Fences and the feature, The Alston Cup, traveled 2 1/8 miles over National Fences.

Jockey Gerard Galligan was the star of the day. He rode four winners and nailed down the leading jockey title for the 2020 season. Jonathan Sheppard trains all four and was the leading trainer for this year. Sheppard

is the owner as well as trainer of two of Galligan's mounts, Penitence and Bet the Pot. High Sierra, owned by KMSN Stables, and Buttonwood Farms LLC's Zoom Zoom Zoe were winners saddled by Sheppard.

Mr. Sarinana was first over the finish line in The Alston Cup. He is owned and trained by Kate Dalton and was ridden by her husband, Bernie.

We hope and pray we can look forward to a "normal" 2021 steeplechase season kicking off in Aiken, S.C., next March.

Monomoy Girl wins big and sells big

Monomoy Girl, of which Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group (owner of the Camden Training Center) was a member of the partnership that owned her, won the Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 at Keeneland Nov. 7. Running fourth, within 1 1/2 lengths of the lead, during the opening 6 furlongs, she took over before reaching the eighth pole and came home a 1 3/4-length winner.

It was her second victory in the race, having won it in 2018 on her way to earning the Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old filly. The daughter of Tapizar missed all of 2019 but returned for 2020 to win every one of her four starts, including the Grade 1 La Troienne at

Churchill Downs, and is expected to take home another Eclipse Award.

Out of the Dogwood Stable campaigned Drummette, Monomoy Girl has won 13 of 15 career starts to date, with seconds in her other two outings. She has earnings of \$4,425,818.

One day after her latest win, the 5-year-old mare was the star of Fasig-Tipton's The November Sale, selling for \$9.5 million to Spendthrift Farm. She remains on schedule for a 2021 campaign with her trainer Brad Cox. Sent to Fair Grounds, she is being pointed to the Bayakoa Stakes-G3 in mid-February at Oaklawn Park, with the \$1 million Apple Blossom Handicap-G1 an early main goal.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	Training Center	Date	Track	Type of Race
Morning Bouquet	Rentz Farm	11/20/20	Penn National	Maiden special weight
Algebraic	McCutchen Training Center	11/18/20	Churchill Downs	Starter Allowance
RUSSIAN INFLUENCE	Custom Care - D. Freyer	11/17/20	Indiana Grand	Miss Indiana S
Ego	Aiken - Cary Frommer	11/16/20	Remington Park	Allowance
Plot the Dots	Custom Care-D. Freyer	11/15/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Coltonator	Elloree Training Center	11/14/20	Churchill Downs	Starter Allowance
English Tavern	Elloree Training Center	11/14/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Halpert	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/14/20	Aqueduct	Maiden special weight
JILLI MARIE	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/14/20	Woodbine	South Ocean S
NO CENTS	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/14/20	Laurel Park	James F. Lewis III S
Summer Day	Aiken - Tony Mitchell	11/14/20	Hawthorn	Allowance
Coal Stuff	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/13/20	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Hit the Woah	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/13/20	Aqueduct	Maiden special weight
Lady Commissioner	Rentz Farm	11/13/20	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
Here Comes Trey	Elloree Training Center	11/12/20	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Wudda U Think Now	Custom Care-D. Freyer	11/12/20	Aqueduct	Maiden special weight
Fiona Power	Elloree Training Center	11/9/20	Mountaineer Park	Allowance
Nasreddine	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/7/20	Del Mar	Maiden special weight
Juror Number Four	Aiken - Cary Frommer	11/6/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Bobby's Goldengirl	Custom Care - D. Freyer	11/5/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Break At Dawn	Mason Springs	11/5/20	Remington Park	Allowance
Rock On Lute	Rentz Farm	11/4/20	PARX	Allowance
Honor Life	Webb Carroll Training Center	11/3/20	Mountaineer Park	Starter Allowance
Best Kept Secret	Rentz Farm	10/31/20	Remington Park	Allowance
DREAMING OF DREW	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/31/20	Woodbine	Princess Elizabeth S
Victory Crusade	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/31/20	Gulfstream PW	Allowance
Doubleoseven	Aiken - Cary Frommer	10/30/20	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Princess Theorem	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/30/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden special weight
Stone Courageous	Elloree Training Center	10/30/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Addison	Elloree Training Center	10/29/20	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Attachment Rate	Elloree Training Center	10/29/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
HUNGARIAN PRINCESS	Elloree Training Center	10/28/20	Indiana Grand	Indiana Fillies Stallion S
Take Me Home	Custom Care - D. Fryer	10/28/20	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Bustin Timberlake	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/27/20	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Excitable Lady	Rentz Farm	10/27/20	PARX	Maiden special weight
Jacks American Pie	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/27/20	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
Luna Fortis	Aiken - Legacy Stable	10/27/20	Indiana Grand	Starter Allowance
Docsluckycat	Rentz Farm	10/26/20	Mahoning Valley	Maiden special weight
Wow Brown	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/26/20	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Malloy	Elloree Training Center	10/25/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden special weight
Ultimate Badger	Elloree Training Center	10/25/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
BROOKLYN STRONG	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/24/20	Belmont Park	Sleepy Hollow S
Douglas Road	Aiken - Legacy Stable	10/24/20	Great Meadow	Maiden special weight
Reason to Soar	Kirkwood Stables	10/24/20	Keeneland	Allowance
Closer Look	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/22/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Dreams Untold	Rentz Farm	10/22/20	PARX	Allowance
Pago Querido	Kirkwood Stables	10/22/20	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Dublinornuthin	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/21/20	Finger Lakes	Allowance
No Cents	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/21/20	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Reign Showers	Custom Care - D. Freyer	10/21/20	Thistledown	Maiden special weight
Zanesville	Webb Carroll Training Center	10/21/20	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Wicked Finn	Kirkwood Stables	10/20/20	Presque Isle	Maiden special weight



VIRGINIA



Colonial Downs 2021 Race Dates Approved at Virginia Racing Commission Meeting

Dates for the 2021 thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs were approved by the Virginia Racing Commission at its December 16 meeting. The seven-week campaign will run from July 19 - September 1 with racing scheduled every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Now in its third season under ownership of the Colonial Downs Group, the meet will include a total of 21 race dates. The stable area and track will open for training on July 5 and will close on September 8.

"Purses are projected to average at least \$500,000 per day absent any unforeseen events like an increase of the pandemic beyond its current intensity," said Frank Petramalo, Virginia HBPA Executive Director. "I think most horsemen by nature have to be optimists otherwise they wouldn't last very long in the racing business. Let's hope a successful 2021 meet will erase the memory of last summer's Covid-related cancellation after just 6 race days."

Colonial will again offer a diverse stakes program in 2021 highlighted by the Grade 3 Virginia Derby and a lucrative Virginia-bred stakes schedule. Details will be announced early in the new year.

"Colonial Downs in conjunction with the VHBPA and all the stakeholders in the Virginia thoroughbred industry look forward to welcoming horsemen back to our beautiful facility in 2021 for 21 days of racing over its two fantastic surfaces including our world-famous Secretariat turf course," said Jill Byrne, VP of Racing Operations. "As a member of the Mid-Atlantic Racing jurisdiction, which has been a leader in adopting some of the strongest safety, health, medication and welfare regulations in the country, Colonial Downs is committed to always putting our equine and human

athletes first. We are proud to continue to support the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and the integrity of the entire thoroughbred industry."

VTA's Annual Stallion Season Auction Set For Wednesday February 10

Mark your calendars for the annual VTA Stallion Season Auction which is set for Wednesday February 10. The large list of no guarantee quality seasons is available at vabred.org and is updated daily. Many of the seasons are owned by breeding right holders who are motivated to sell. Bidders do not have to be a member of the VTA to bid.

Open bidding is available from 10 AM - 8 PM and can only be made by phone at 540-347-4313. No bids will be accepted by internet or e-mail. Final bidding will be conducted the next day among the high bidders on each season to close the auction. Pre-registration is available through the 10th. Anyone with questions can call Debbie Easter prior to the auction's start at 434-531-2480.

Virginia-Bred Largent Captures Grade 2 Fort Lauderdale Stakes; Grade I Pegasus World Cup Turf Up Next

Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Twin Creeks Racing Stables' Largent punched his ticket to the January 23 Grade I Pegasus World Cup Turf with a come-from-behind victory in the December 12 Fort Lauderdale (G2) at Gulfstream Park.

With Paco Lopez aboard for the first time, Largent (\$35.80) swept to the lead on the far outside approaching the stretch and outran fellow

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Top: VTA staff and committee members work the phones during the 2020 Stallion Season auction.



longshots Breaking the Rules and Doswell late to win by two lengths in 1:46.16 over a turf course rated good.

Since the Pegasus Turf was inaugurated in 2019, the Fort Lauderdale was moved from early January to mid-December to serve as the local stepping-stone to the Pegasus Day event.

The 4-year-old Into Mischief gelding, who was bred at Lazy Lane Farm, had two Virginia-bred stakes wins in 2020. He won the Edward P. Evans at Colonial July 29 and the Bert Allen at Laurel October 9. The Todd Pletcher trainee has six wins and three runner-up finishes from nine career starts.

Pair of Virginia-Certified Horses Win \$100,000 Stakes at Laurel

Virginia-Certified Street Lute took down the field in the \$100,000 Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship December 5. The 2-year-old Street Magician filly beat eight others as her outstanding freshman campaign continued. She has four wins and a runner-up finish in five starts, which include stakes wins in the Small Wonder at Delaware and Smart Halo at Laurel. The Maryland-bred was ridden by Xavier Perez, is trained by John Robb and is owned by Lucky 7 Stables. She enjoyed her Virginia residency at Diana McClure's DMC Carousel Racing Stable in Berryville.

Air Token, also Virginia-Certified, captured the \$100,000 Concern Stakes November 28 where he won by a neck over betting favorite Francatelli in a thrilling finish. The Maryland-bred was fresh off a pair of solid efforts at Laurel — an allowance win November 7 and a second in

the Maryland Million Turf Starter Handicap October 24. Sent off at 16-1, Air Token and jockey Horacio Karamanos wore down frontrunning Francatelli late to capture his fourth win from 11 starts this year. The 3-year-old Golden Lad gelding has earned \$145,122 for Corrales Racing. Air Token spent his six-month Virginia residency at Horseshoe Hill Farm in Ashland.

Virginia-Breds Sir Rockport & American Dubai Keep Adding Wins to Already Impressive Resumes

Virginia-bred Sir Rockport made it 6-for-12 in 2020 on December 4 when the 8-year-old Rockport Harbor gelding was a nose the best in a thrilling three horse photo finish at Penn National.

With the close win, Sir Rockport earned his 35th “top three” career finish, and his earnings increased to \$325,806. From 68 starts, he has 15 wins, 8 seconds and a dozen third place finishes. The consistent sprinter was bred by Legacy Farm & Larry Johnson.

American Dubai, another six-digit earning horse, had a gate-to-wire performance at Remington Park the same day in a \$32,000 allowance optional claimer. The 7-year-old E Dubai gelding won his ninth career race from 29 starts by a half-length at the one mile, 70-yard distance. Bred by Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, American Dubai has amassed a \$533,141 bankroll from those starts, which includes a win earlier this year in the Ruidoso Sprint Handicap.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Top Left - Virginia-certified Air Token wins the \$100,000 Concern Stakes Nov. 28 by a neck over Francatelli. Photo by Jim McCue.

Top Right - Virginia-certified Street Lute captures the \$100,000 Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship December 5 at Laurel. Photo by Jim McCue.

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Visit www.vabred.org—the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news

For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

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West Virginia

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

January 2021

McKee: *Stakes for the Holidays*

By Jeff Gilleas

Futurities have a time-honored tradition in Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing. They generate supplemental money via a protracted revenue stream, emanating from conception with installments appointed over the individuals' lifetime.

One of the most enterprising competitions that enriched the sectional racing scene for decades was the Tri-State Futurity. Unfortunately, the race which featured some of the areas finest horses and had historic ramifications for Charles Town and Shenandoah Downs met its untimely conclusion in 2016.

I turned to owner/breeder Tabitha Brady to determine why this formula may have lost some of its once celebrated appeal. Tabitha is the daughter of Vicki Stehr and alongside her uncle Joe and grandmother Betty form a powerful equine clan in Jefferson County.

"For our family, it means we need to dedicate today's money to a program that is built on future hopes and dreams. If we breed an average of 10 mares and say we pay \$200 to make every foal eligible at birth, continue payments throughout the process, you can see this might not be cost effective. And God forbid you skip a payment or just plain forget."

For now the West Virginia Futurity remains a viable option, and on Saturday Oct. 31, the focus was on a talented, though compact group of 2-year-old runners.



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Youthinkthatsfunny topped his win on West Virginia Breeders Classics night with a victory in the West Virginia Futurity for owner/breeder/trainer John McKee.

Testing the existing limits of 7-furlong staying power, owner/trainer/breeder John McKee, in the midst of a splendid 2020 training campaign, appeared to hold all the cards. Due to the fiscal nature of a futurity, the \$50,000-added purse was actually worth in excess of \$68,000. McKee's timeless colors sported three entrants, while newly licensed conditioner Kristy Petty ran two and Ollie Figgins III one.

Youthinkthatsfunny, fresh from a dominant win on Breeders Classics

night was a surprising second choice in the wagering to **Juba Did It**, who decisively captured his debut by a resounding 7-length margin two weeks earlier. As the latch sprung it was **Juba Did It** bounding away to a controlled advantage with the well-seasoned **Youthinkthatsfunny** in hot pursuit. The order remained unchanged until the top of the stretch when **Juba Did It** drifted slightly outward, opening the rail for his closest adversary. The John McKee-bred son of **Fiber Sonde**, out

of Humored (by Distorted Humor) wrestled the advantage away in midstretch and went on to prevail by 2 1/4 lengths.

Kristy Petty, seeking her first stakes win as a trainer, shouldn't wait long with her sizable son of Juba out of Landon Did It, a mare she successfully campaigned as owner/breeder.

Throughout the annals of West Virginia racing women have played a major role. Dominant figures like Sylvia Bishop, Ruth Funkhouser, Eleanor Casey, Leslie Condon, Barbara Jo Rubin and dozens more worthy of honorable mention have lent their creative touches to their beloved industry.

Eleanor Casey, the matriarch of the Casey family and architect of Taylor Mountain Farm, was paid homage in the feature race Nov. 28 titled in her remembrance.

Over the last number of years, John McKee's stallion Fiber Sonde has influenced our front page racing news and played a major role in the industry's breeding program. The Eleanor Casey Memorial proved to be another stellar production for Beau Ridge Farm, as they recorded a one-two finish in the \$50,000 stakes for registered accredited West Virginia 2-year-old fillies.

The winner Shutup'n'kissme grabbed command from the start, set a humble pace and had plenty in reserve when her trio of challengers mounted their bids. Nearing the wire the race got briefly interesting, when McKee's lesser half of his two-pronged attack, Theladyisttrue, delivered a wide rally to cut the deficit to 1 3/4 lengths.

As racing opportunities lessened towards years end, these gals found themselves in the hunt for divisional honors. John McKee and wife Cyndy are having a banner year, courtesy of their remarkable stallion.

Researching Equibase's trainer's statistics showed John surpassed the \$1 million mark in earnings for the first

time in his career, handily eclipsing last year's \$717,108. He'll also improved his barn win percentage from 12 percent to 21 percent.

Shutup'n'kissme was the beneficiary of a race day defection of That Kenney Kid, who probably would have been the favorite after edging the Eleanor Casey Memorial winner on Breeders Classics night.

NEWS AND NOTES

When the racing community recently lost Dr. Feelgood to a training mishap, it raised the question of where does he fit in the hierarchy of all-time legendary Charles Town speed merchants?

A legend leaves behind an unforgettable impression on others. They can be famous, overcome hardships, provide a lesson about life and have admirable characteristics. In sports, we are quick to assign the word "great" to individuals that accomplish extraordinary feats. In horse racing, we often judge a horse's unique qualities by using time as a critical measuring tool.

Dr. Feelgood, a son of Fiber Sonde out of the Polish Numbers mare Happy Numbers, proved his mettle time and again on the racetrack. Under the shedrow, the good doctor ingratiated himself to all fortunate to be in his daily presence.

Owned by Jill Daniel, trained by Crystal Pickett and bred in West Virginia by Francis Daniel III, the "sultan of swayback" compiled an enviable lifetime record of 15 starts with 13 firsts and one second. Panda, as he was referred to at Barn 17, never tasted defeat while competing at 4 1/2 furlongs.

A unique blend of size, speed, desire and personality, in several of his lifetime efforts Dr. Feelgood threatened the track record by registering final times of 50 seconds and change. His relationship with regular jockey Darius Thorpe may be the most compelling aspect

of his transferred inheritance. The bond they formed help formulate Darius' grounded perspective on this business, inflated his infectious smile and placed a natural bounce in his purposeful stride. Like every jockey Thorpe searched for that one big horse who would provide a spark to his career.

Dr. Feelgood was it!

A chance encounter with a peppermint eating machine made him a better rider and instilled in him the confidence needed to succeed at his chosen craft.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

◆ **The 10-10-10 program** is now called the **Supplemental Purse Award Claim**, for which there are new forms. All claims must be submitted to the WV Racing Commission within 15 days from the date the purse is awarded. Claim forms are available on the WV Racing Commission website, racing.wv.gov.

◆ If you are selling or planning to sell your accredited WV-bred and/or sired horse, please contact the WVTBA. The WVTBA has started supplying sellers of **accredited WV-bred and/or sired horses with hip stickers and stall-card stickers** to make it easier for buyers to identify these horses. Contact the WVTBA office at (304) 728-6868 or by e-mail at wvbreeders@gmail.com.

◆ **WV Certificates** will be issued seven to 10 days after the WVTBA receives the original registration form application, all required paperwork and payment.

◆ The new WVTBA office is located at 110 South George Street, Suite 4, Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. More information may be found at www.wvtba.net.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Mailing address: P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-6868 • Fax: (304) 724-7870 • Web site: www.wvtba.net

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Looking Back

25 years ago

■ The nation's Horse of the Year Cigar was the latest link to fame for the Pons family and 113-acre Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md. Home to that year's leading Mid-Atlantic sire Allen's Prospect, plus Citidancer, sire of three 1995 Maryland Million winners, Country Life was also the birthplace of Cigar, the first Maryland-bred named Horse of the Year since Challedon in 1939 and '40.

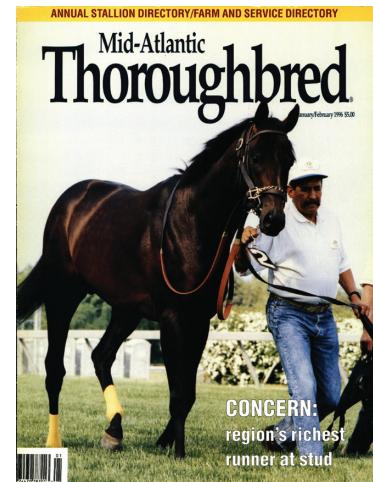
Adolphe Pons purchased the farm at the height of the Depression in 1933 for \$18,000. Funds for the initial purchase came partly from the 2-year-old earnings of Discovery, whom Adolphe had leased for racing purposes in 1932 from the horse's breeder, Walter Salmon of Mereworth Stud. Discovery was sold to Alfred Vanderbilt Jr. before the final start of his juvenile campaign and went on to

become a legendary weight carrier and broodmare sire.

■ The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale showed impressive figures thanks to the Israel Cohen dispersal, with 23 horses of racing age selling for \$1,599,900, an average of \$69,561.

Highlighting the dispersal, and the auction, were two unraced 2-year-old colts: a son of Seattle Slew out of the In Reality mare Bald Facts for \$260,000, setting a record as the most expensive horse to sell at auction in Maryland, and Movin On Up, by Time for a Change out of the Alydar mare Tin Pan Aly, for \$210,000.

Cohen's multiple allowance-winning 4-year-old Forest Wildcat sold for \$57,000 to New Farm. The son of Storm Cat won five of seven starts after the sale, earned \$429,126. His four stakes wins included the Finger Lakes Breeders' Cup-G3 and Maryland Breeders' Cup Handicap-G3. He went on to sire 70 stakes



winners, a champion, and is the dam sire of champions.

■ Maryland-bred multimillionaire Concern, winner of the 1994 Breeders' Cup Classic-G1, was retired to Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md. The leading earner (\$3,079,350) to retire to stud in the region, Concern was being syndicated by his owner/breeder Robert Meyerhoff. Shares were \$60,000 and a live foal season \$10,000.

50 years ago

■ Maryland's stallion roster increased by 23 for the 1971 breeding season, bringing the number standing in the state to 205.

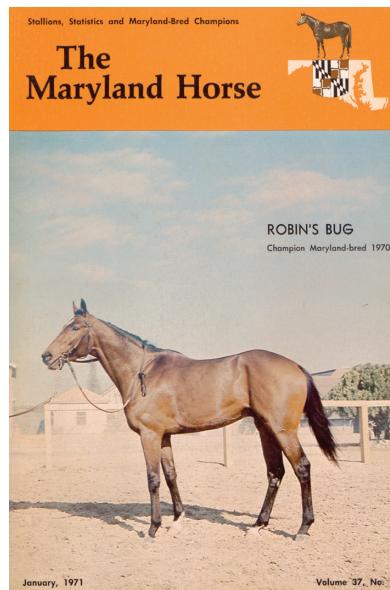
The most expensive new arrivals at \$3,500 live foal were stakes sires National (by Nashua), standing at Woodstock Farm, and former Virginia stallion Tambourine (by *Princequillo), at Helmore Farm. The latter won the Irish Sweepstakes Derby in course record time.

Notable first-year stallions were Dancing Count (to Windfields) and What Luck (Polinger Farm), while Wise Exchange moved from Florida to Stymie Manor Farm to stand his second season.

■ Maryland's top stallion by progeny earnings in 1970 was Northern Dancer, who replaced his sire, Nearctic, for the title. Northern Dancer's earnings did not include European races, thus excluding his greatest runner, Nijinsky II.

Neither of the top two stallions had Maryland-sired runners—Northern Dancer stood his first Maryland season in 1969 and Nearctic's first Maryland crop turned 2 in 1971.

■ Major Goss L. Stryker, who guided the Maryland Horse Breeders Association since its founding, "died suddenly" at age 93. "His incredible vitality and health per-



mitted him to drive his own automobile up until the week before his death," the magazine reported.

Stryker was elected one of the original MHBA directors in 1929 and took over as MHBA's secretary-treasurer in 1936. He had also been president of Laurel Race Course from 1940-45.

■ Harold Ferguson was back in as Sagamore Farm's manager when Frank Bonsal resigned after three months to return to training a public stable. The parting was amicable as Alfred Vanderbilt

gave a division of his Sagamore racing stable to Bonsal.

Ferguson had taken an assistant general manager position at Ocala Stud Farm in Florida. "That weather in Florida was nice, but it's certainly great to be back at my old desk and see all my old friends," he said. Ferguson had worked for Sagamore since 1952 and had been the farm's manager for 10 years.

■ Three-year-old colt Robin's Bug was named Maryland-bred Horse of the Year. Bred by jockey LeRoy Moyers, who sold the son of Maryland stallion Martins Rullah as a yearling to Dr. Richard Kuhn and Walter Hickey, Robin's Bug was ridden by Moyers throughout his career, which in 1970 included five stakes wins, among them the Prince George's at Bowie, Survivor (Pimlico) and Michigan Derby (Hazel Park). He also started (but was off the board) in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness.

The only unanimous champions for the 10-man committee of voters, all members of the Maryland Racing Writers Association, were 2-year-old filly Swinging Lizzie, bred by John A. Bell III's Jonabell Farm and born at Sagamore Farm when her dam was shipped to the state to be bred to Nearctic, and Nathan Cohen's Mister Diz as turf horse (he was also champion older horse, though not unanimous).

MID-ATLANTIC Thoroughbred

January 2011 • \$5



SHARING THE GLORY OF FAMED SAGAMORE

OWNER MIKE REPOLE ON

A MOMENTOUS ROLL

VOSS TRAINEE SLIP AWAY

CAPTURES STEEPELCHASE TITLE

10 years ago

■ Sagamore Farm's Shared Account notched Fair Hill-based trainer Graham Motion his second Breeders' Cup victory with an upset in the 12th Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf-G1. Under Edgar Prado, the 4-year-old filly paid \$94 as she took down defending champion Midday (GB).

Two races later, Zenyatta suffered her first defeat when second by a head to Blame in the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1. The 7-year-old superstar finished her career 19-for-20 with \$7,304,580 earned.

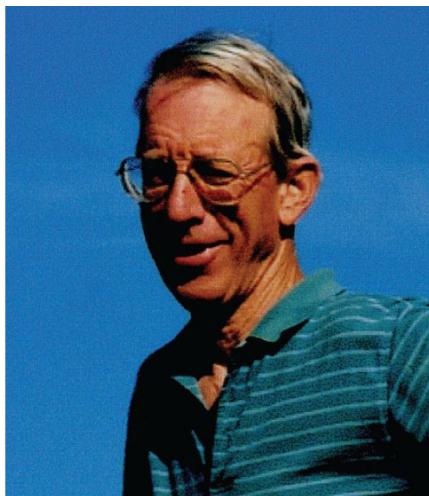
"Zenyatta lost nothing in defeat, gained more in defeat than any horse in the history of the turf. She was gallant, game, resilient, classic. A throwback in an age where early is everything," wrote Sean Clancy.

■ Dr. John R.S. Fisher, one of the region's preeminent horsemen, announced his retirement from training. Based at Fair Hill Training Center in Elkton, Md., which he founded, Fisher sold his barn and business to trainer Niall Saville.

75 years ago

■ One story dominated the headlines. "The most prosperous racing season Maryland has ever seen, albeit it was an abbreviated one, wound up in a haze of allegations of doping horses, fixed-races, suits, injunctions and much bitterness, suspicion and ill-feeling," wrote Don Reed. "Under the current wording and interpretation of the Maryland Rules of Racing a decent man has no chance to defend himself against an unjust

Fisher began training steeplechase horses in the 1960s, highlighted by two-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Landing Party and timber Horse of the Year Island Stream, both ridden by their trainer, along with champion Fire Control in 1976. Fisher then turned his focus to flat racing and sent out the likes of stakes winners Play Bingo, Dr. Kashnikow and Smart Enough.



KATHY REINERT

■ Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 winner Uncle Mo was foaled in Kentucky, but his family counted generations in the Mid-Atlantic. Fourth dam Hot Slippers, a multiple stakes-placed daughter of Rollicking, was bred by Glade Valley Farms in Maryland and went on to produce Marylander Adelaide Riggs' Cyane's Slippers, a daughter of Cyane (who stood at Blue Ridge Farm in Upperville, Va.).

Cyane's Slippers' daughter Dixie Slippers, Uncle Mo's second dam, was a winning daughter of Maryland-bred champion Dixieland Band. Her only foal was Playa Maya, a multiple-stakes placed daughter of Arch.

The family actually went further back—his fifth dam was New Jersey-bred Miss Fairfield,

charge of doping horses that he trains, even though the actual guilty party is apprehended in the act, should a positive saliva or urine test be returned from the chemists...

"The thought that five men, in the face of a widely publicized drive against doping should use morphine, of all things, is so ridiculous that no man in his right mind would believe it possible. Yet that is what the chemists claim."

A report from the Maryland Horsemen's Protective Association noted

out of Rosepomp, bred by Erdenheim Farms of Pennsylvania.

■ Irv Naylor, of York, Pa., earned his first National Steeplechase Association owners' championship with \$329,300 in 2010, edging past Bill Pape on the season's final day. Naylor won 12 races from 84 starts by 31 individual horses, highlighted by Tax Ruling's win in the Iroquois-G1.

■ Anna (Rosie) Napravnik, a 22-year-old native of Norristown, N.J., became the first female jockey to win a Delaware Park riding title while also notching her 1,000th win at the track in October. She won 126 races from 529 starts, while runner-up Jeremy Rose captured 105 from 397 starts.

■ Multiple graded stakes winner Charitable Man and two-time classic-placed Denis of Cork joined the stallion ranks at Taylor Mountain Farm in Charles Town, W.Va., for the 2011 season.

Charitable Man, a son of Lemon Drop Kid bred in Virginia by Edward P. Evans, was a multiple Grade 2 winner standing his first year. Denis of Cork, third and second, respectively, in the 2008 Kentucky Derby-G1 and Belmont Stakes-G1, had stood at Vinery in Florida in 2010.

■ Mid-Atlantic-bred 2-year-old fillies were lighting up the board around the country as Virginia-bred Dixie City (Dixie Union) and Maryland-bred Neversaidiwasweet (Eurosilver) won their first stakes, respectively, in the Demoiselle-G2 at Aqueduct and Miesque Stakes-G3 at Hollywood Park.

Pennsylvania-bred Quantum Miss captured the Blue Mountain at Penn National in her stakes debut, while Virginia-bred Her Smile took the Donna Freyer at Philadelphia Park.

Her Smile became a Grade 1 winner in the 2011 Prioress at Belmont Park and Quantum Miss went on to win the 2011 Cicada Stakes-G3 at Aqueduct.

that "horsemen had come to the 'end of the rope' with the Maryland Racing Commission pulling it ever tighter around their necks..."

And *Maryland Horse* editor Humphrey Finney weighed in after listening to days of testimony by the state's witnesses: "It does not make sense that four men on one and the same day should suddenly use morphine on their horses... Somewhere along the line there is a reason for these tests showing as they did. It will come out one of these days."



Wonder Water. The 260-foot deep artesian well at Maryland's Holly Beach Farm never froze and fed water troughs for horses like this one who took a nice, long drink in January 1940. Once the state's most extensive Thoroughbred farms, complete with a racetrack called Revell Downs, Holly Beach was created by the Labrot family near Annapolis. Much of the farm later became Sandy Point State Park.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years—from 1920 until his death in 1970—captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

Image #42-766 www.aaubreybodine.com

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Virginia Thoroughbred Association
Annual Stallion Season

Auction

**GREAT STALLIONS,
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February 10, 2021
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Check our website for auction details and the season list,
which is updated daily!



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